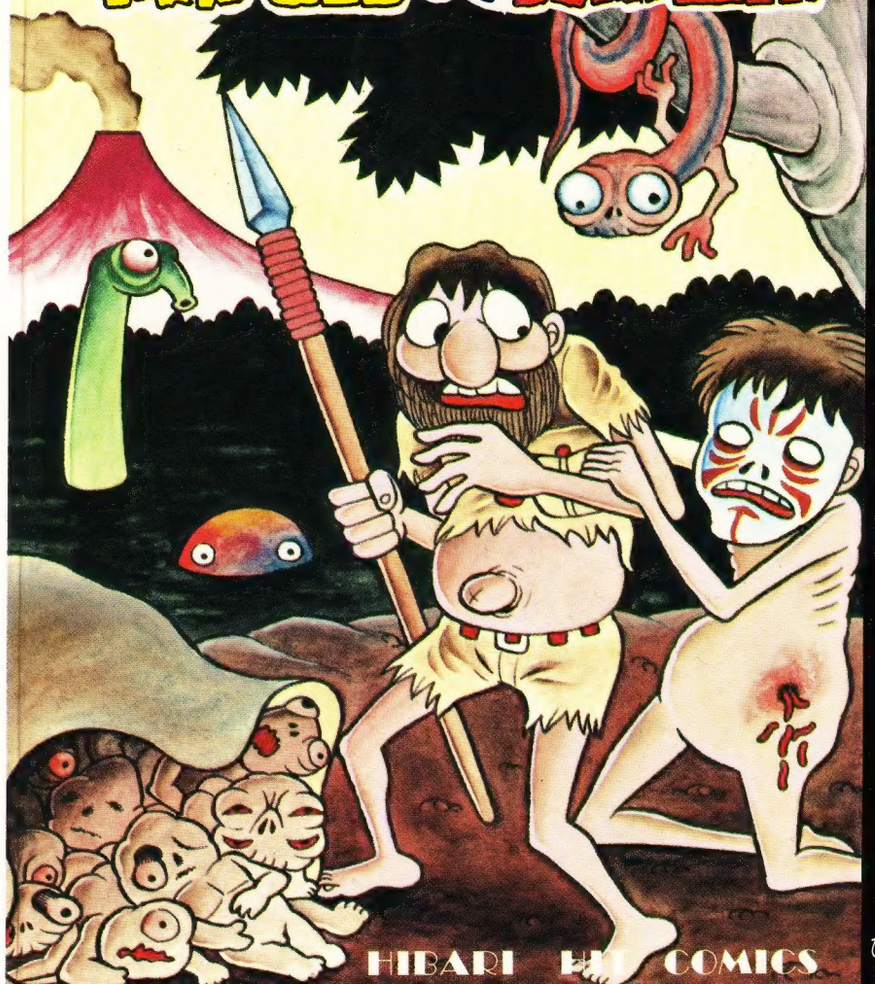
日野日出志

●本名 星野安司。昭和21年4月19日、満州チチハルにて出生。同年晩秋、父母に連れられ、満州の荒野で九死に一生を得て、内地に引き揚げて来る。幼い頃は、父の職業が定まらず各地を転々とする。小学校一年で三回も学校を変わり、この頃から異常な孤独癖と空想癖に取りつかれるようになる。●昭和42年頃から「COM」「ガロ」「地獄」に「埋輪の森」「つめたい汗」「他数篇」を第5回月例新人入選作として発表。「少年画報」「少年サンデー」「蔵六の奇病」「蝶の家」「他数篇の短篇を発表。「少年画報」「少年サンデー」「蔵六の奇病」「蝶の家」「他数篇の子守唄」「埋輪の森」「つめたい汗」「他数篇」「はつかねずみ」「他数篇」を発表。●怪奇情念の世界を執筆し、現在に至る。独特の美意識でえぐる鎮魂唄としての作品は、胎内志向を支えに、寡作ゆえに光彩を放つ。

日野日出志☆ショッキング劇場☆

幻色の孤島



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ショッキング劇場

幻色の孤島

日野日出志

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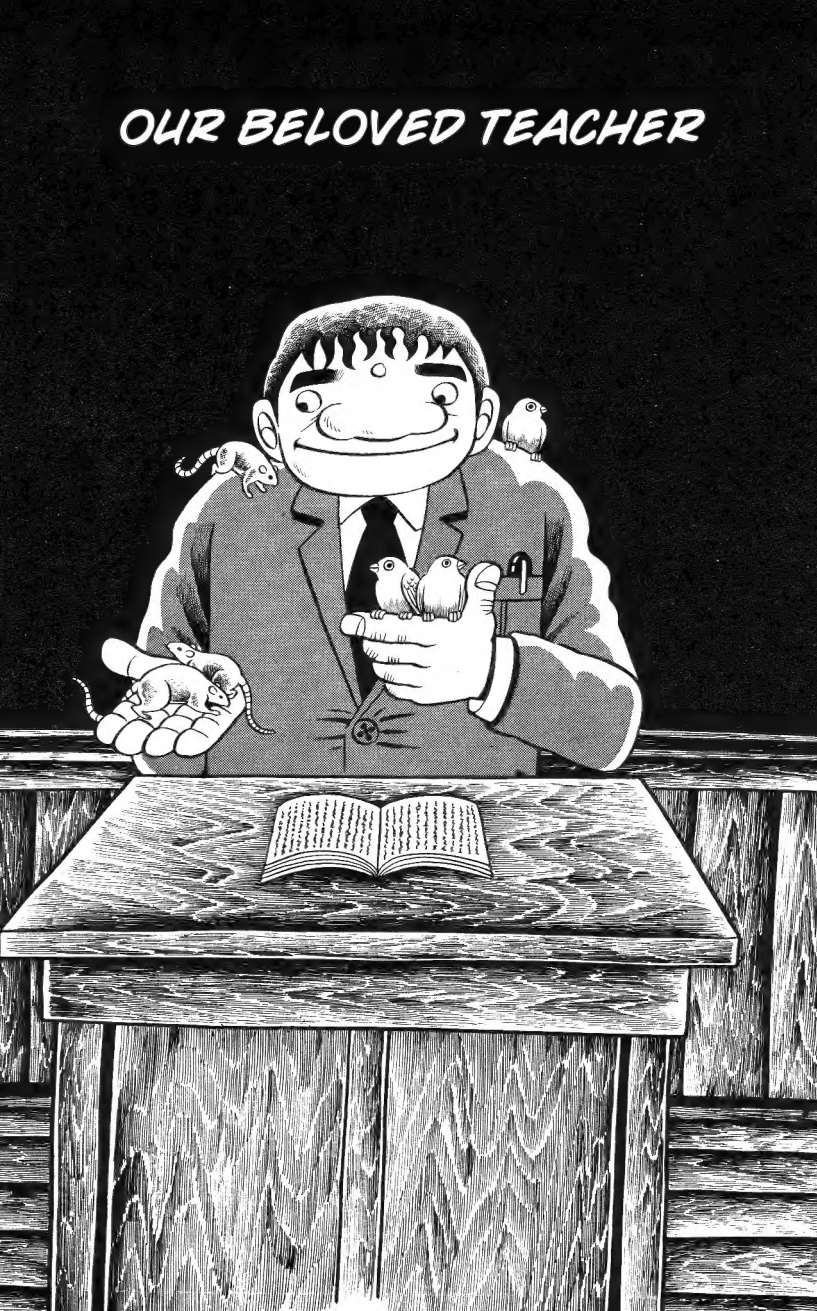
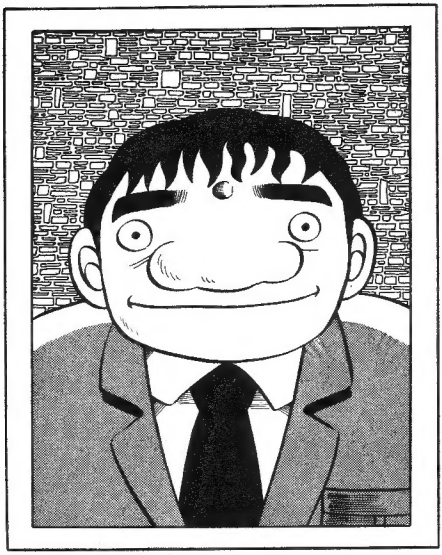
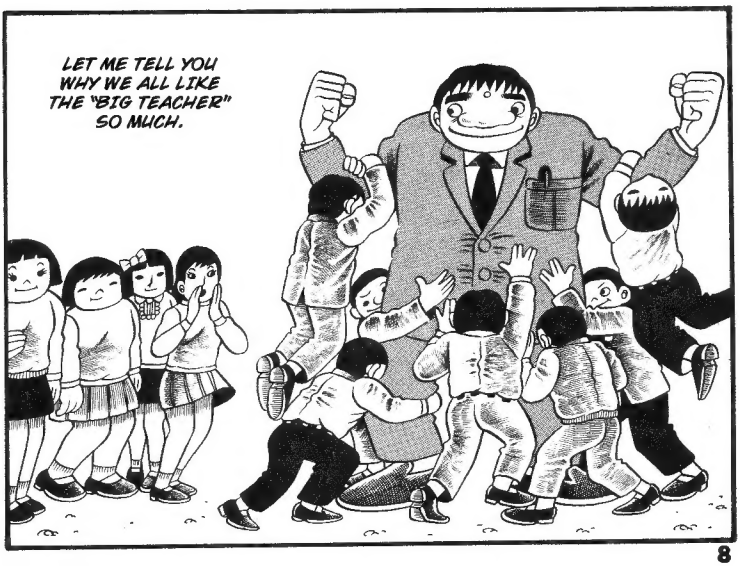
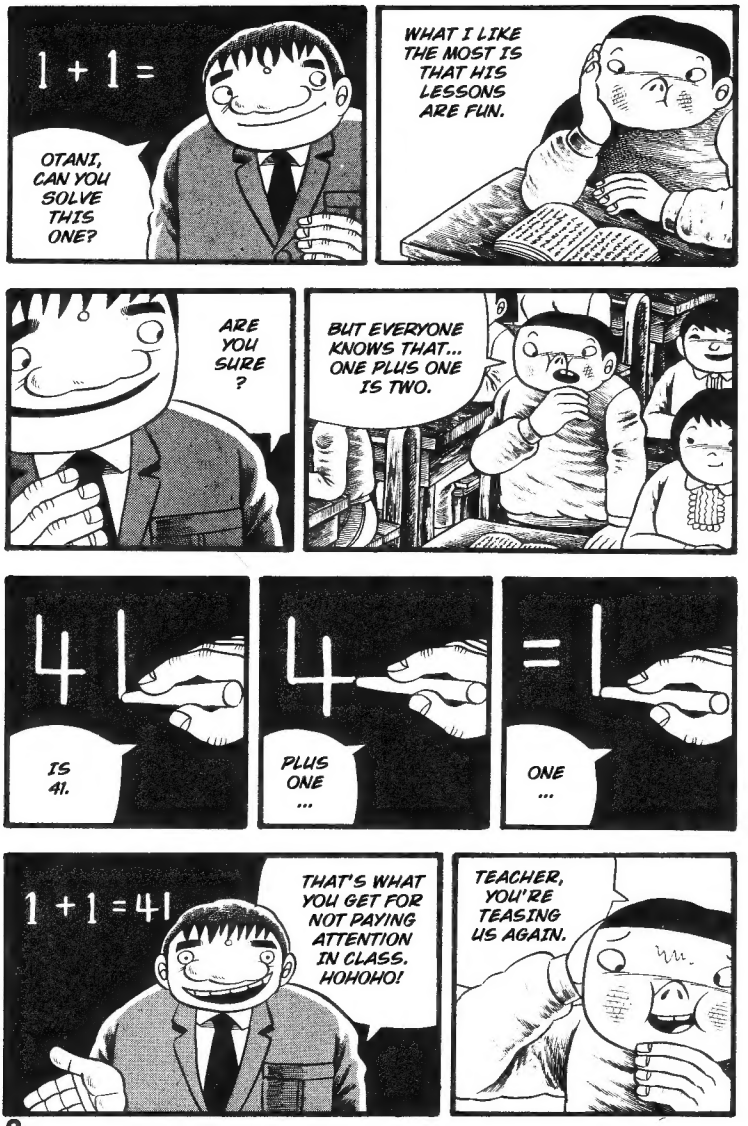
OUR BELOVED TEACHER

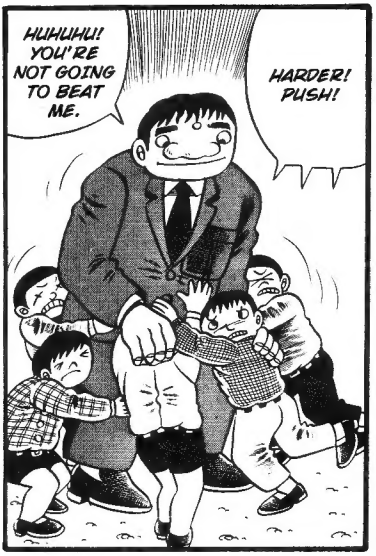


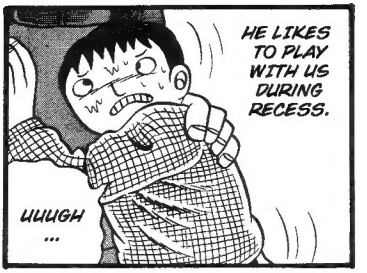


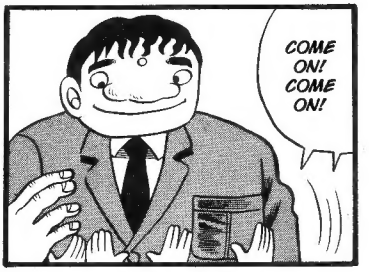
OUR TEACHER
IS THE COOLEST
GUY IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL.
HE'S BIG AND STRONG
BUT SUPER NICE.
HE HAS A MOLE
BETWEEN HIS EYEBROWS
THAT MAKES HIM LOOK
LIKE A BUDDHA.
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL
CALLS HIM
"BIG TEACHER".



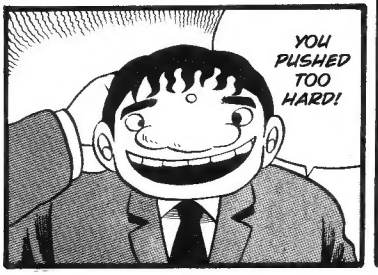

1 + 1 =
OTANI, CAN YOU SOLVE THIS ONE?
WHAT I LIKE THE MOST IS THAT HIS LESSONS ARE FUN.
ARE YOU SURE ?
BUT EVERYONE KNOWS THAT... ONE PLUS ONE IS TWO.
4 1
IS 41.
4
PLUS ONE ...
= 1
ONE ...
1 + 1 = 41
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR NOT PAYING ATTENTION IN CLASS. HOHOHO!
TEACHER, YOU'RE TEASING US AGAIN.

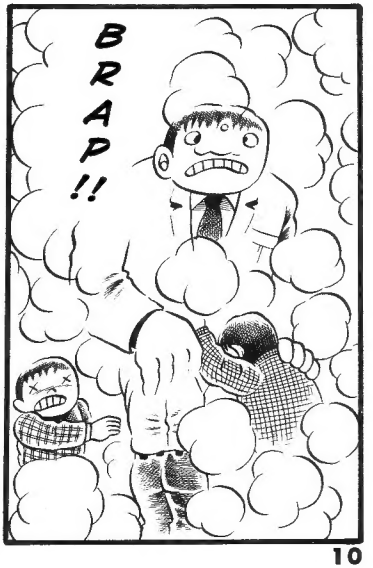

HUHUHU! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT ME.
HARDER! PUSH!


HE LIKES TO PLAY WITH US DURING RECESS.
UUUGH ...

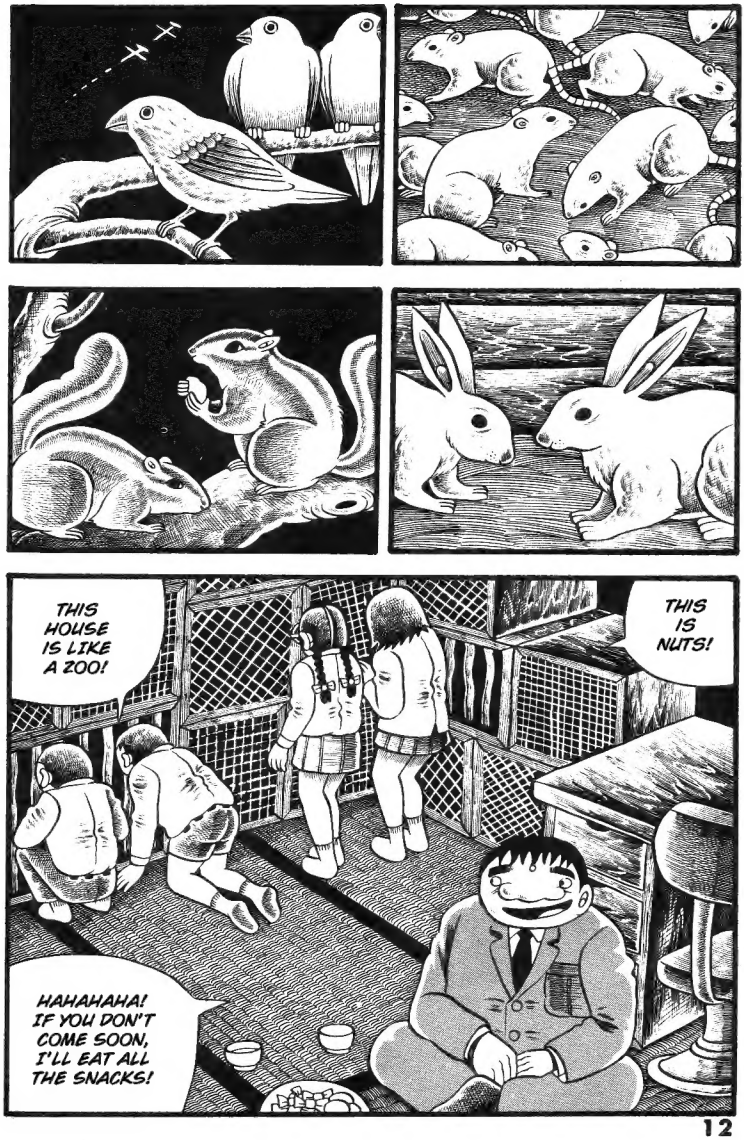

COME ON! COME ON!

ふにゃ

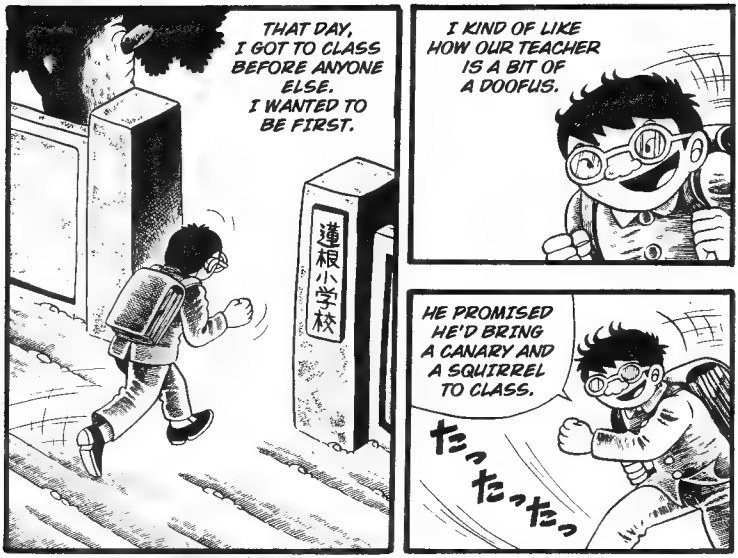

YOU PUSHED TOO HARD!


BRAP!!

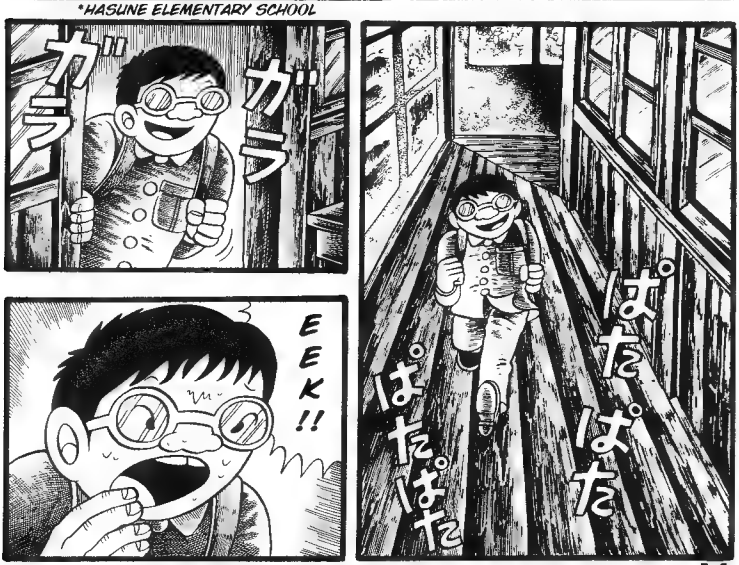
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S NO OTHER TEACHER WHO PLAYS WITH US DURING RECESS.
HAH!
OOPS! HOW EMBARRASSING!
OH, NO!
EEK!
TEACHER!
WHAT'S WRONG ?

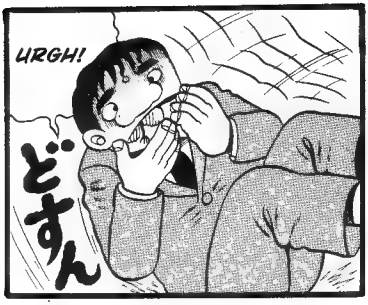

THIS HOUSE IS LIKE A ZOO!
THIS IS NUTS!
HAHAHAHA! IF YOU DON'T COME SOON, I'LL EAT ALL THE SNACKS!

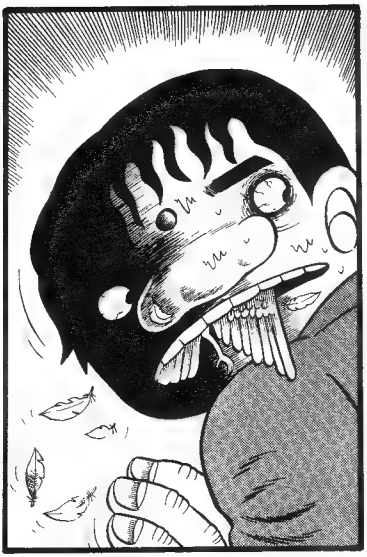
WHY DON'T WE HAVE A CLASS PET?
YOU CLEARLY LIKE THEM A LOT AS WELL.
YES... CAN WE?
COME ON, HURRY!
OHH ...
TRUE.
PEOPLE WHO LIKE ANIMALS ARE GOOD AT HEART.
THIS IS GREAT!
REAL-LY?
THAT'S FINE WITH ME. IT WILL HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT NATURE.
HOHO! YOU CRACK ME UP!
WE HAVE THE BEST TEACHER IN THE SCHO-OL.
THE CLASS WILL GO NUTS.


THAT DAY, I GOT TO CLASS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE. I WANTED TO BE FIRST.
蓮根小学校
I KIND OF LIKE HOW OUR TEACHER IS A BIT OF A DOOFUS.
HE PROMISED HE'D BRING A CANARY AND A SQUIRREL TO CLASS.
たったったっ

*HASUNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

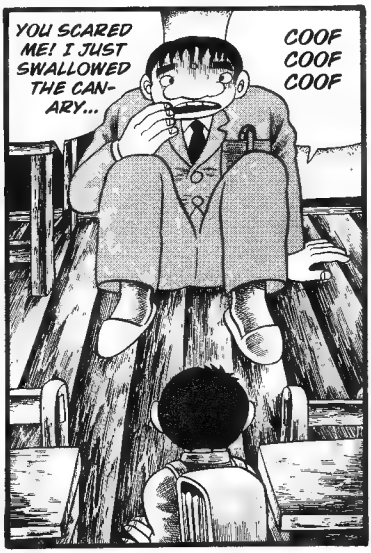


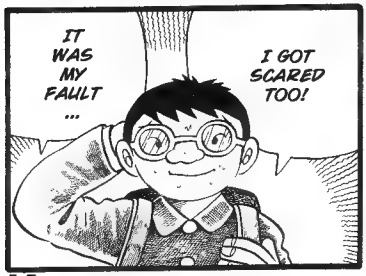

URGH!
どすん

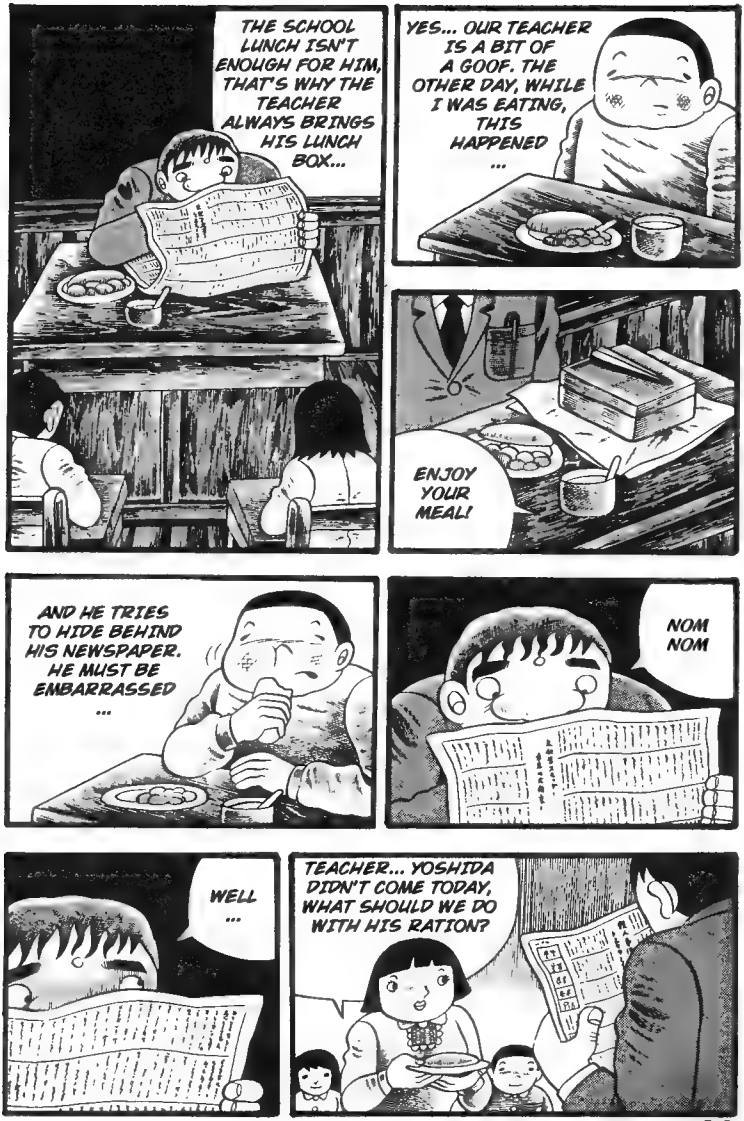


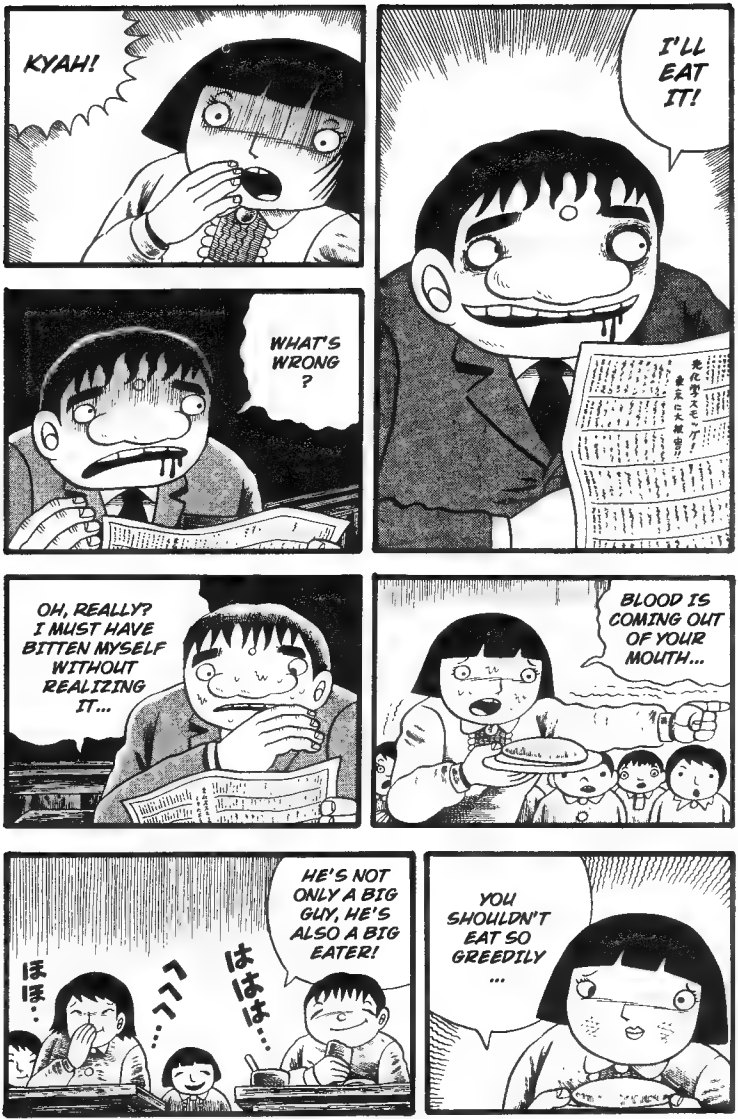
ごーん

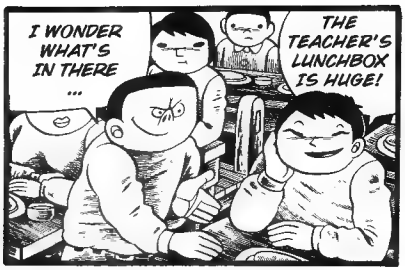
IT GOT INTO MY MOUTH WHEN I WAS FEEDING IT... HEHEHEHE!


YOU SCARED ME! I JUST SWALLOWED THE CAN-ARY...
COOF COOF COOF

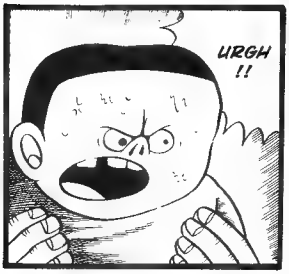

IT WAS MY FAULT ...
I GOT SCARED TOO!


THE SCHOOL LUNCH ISN'T ENOUGH FOR HIM, THAT'S WHY THE TEACHER ALWAYS BRINGS HIS LUNCH BOX...
YES... OUR TEACHER IS A BIT OF A GOOF. THE OTHER DAY, WHILE I WAS EATING, THIS HAPPENED ...
ENJOY YOUR MEAL!
AND HE TRIES TO HIDE BEHIND HIS NEWSPAPER. HE MUST BE EMBARRASSED ...
NOM NOM
WELL ...
TEACHER... YOSHIDA DIDN'T COME TODAY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIS RATION?

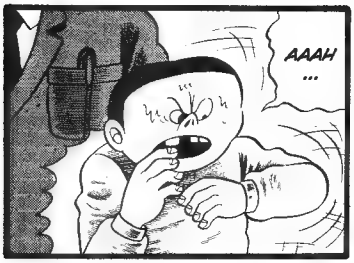

KYAH!
I'LL EAT IT!
WHAT'S WRONG ?
OH, REALLY? I MUST HAVE BITTEN MYSELF WITHOUT REALIZING IT...
BLOOD IS COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH...
HE'S NOT ONLY A BIG GUY, HE'S ALSO A BIG EATER!
ほほ…
「「…
ははは…
YOU SHOULDN'T EAT SO GREEDILY ...

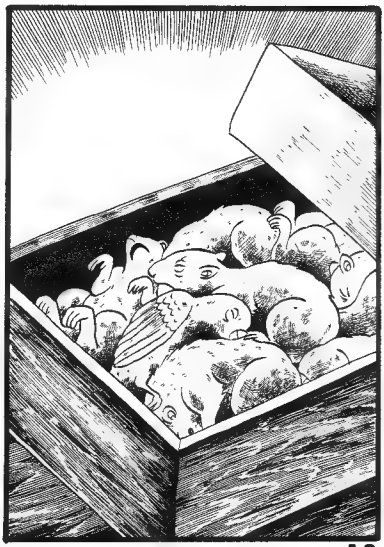

I WONDER WHAT'S IN THERE ...
THE TEACHER'S LUNCHBOX IS HUGE!

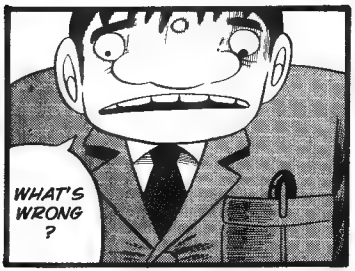
WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE TEACHER IS THAT HE NEVER GETS ANGRY, EVEN IF THERE IS TROUBLE.


URGH !!

NOW THAT HE'S GONE ...


AAAH ...



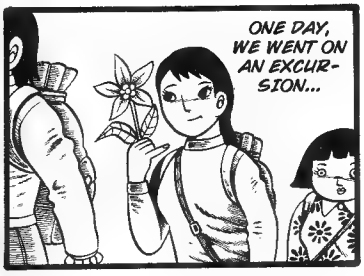

WHAT'S WRONG ?

SOMEONE WANTED TO PRANK ME! HAHAHA!
I DIDN'T DO IT! I OPENED IT BUT I SWEAR IT WASN'T ME!
ぽん
I KNOW IT WASN'T YOU.
IT'S NOTHING! GIVE IT A REST.
WHO WAS THE CREEP? COME FOR-WARD RIGHT NOW!
I WAS PISSED... THE TEACHER DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO FIND THE CULPRIT... IF I FIND OUT WHO IT WAS...
OK... OK...

OK, THROW IT!
HERE IT COMES !!
WHAT NOW? WHERE DID IT LAND?
SOR-RY!
OH, MY!
ビュッ!
YOU MIS-SED!

OH ...
がさっ
HUH... PUPPIES ...
WOOF WOOF
AH, TEACHER! YOU SCARED ME!
THEY'VE BEEN ABANDONED. I'LL TAKE THEM HOME.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THOSE PUPPIES ?
I LIKE THAT THE TEACHER IS SUCH A GOOD PERSON...

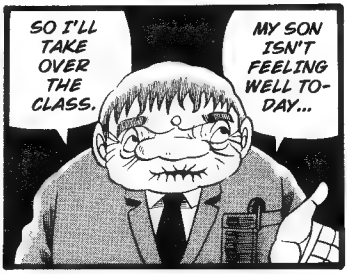
I ALSO THINK THAT THE TEACHER IS A VERY GOOD PERSON...

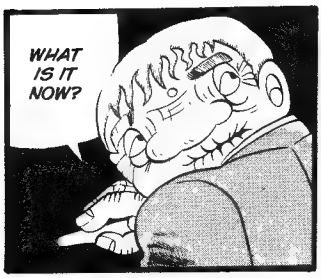

ONE DAY, WE WENT ON AN EXCURSION...

WHAT'S WRONG ?
EEK !!
HO HO HO !!
WHAT BIG RICE BALLS...
BUT IT'S NOT POISONOUS ...
QUICK!
A SNAKE!
ぷっ!
WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG? WE CAN'T RISK IT...

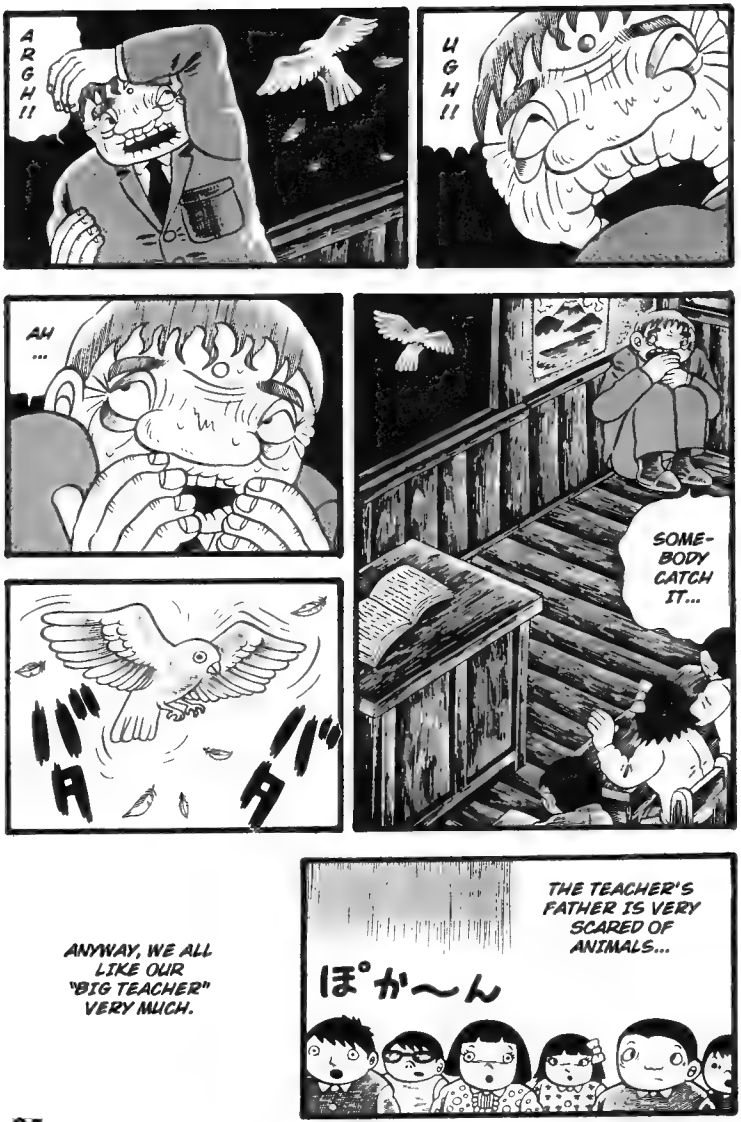
ONCE HE GOT SICK AND SENT HIS FATHER.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY OTHER TEACHER WHO TAKES HIS JOB THIS SERIOUSLY.

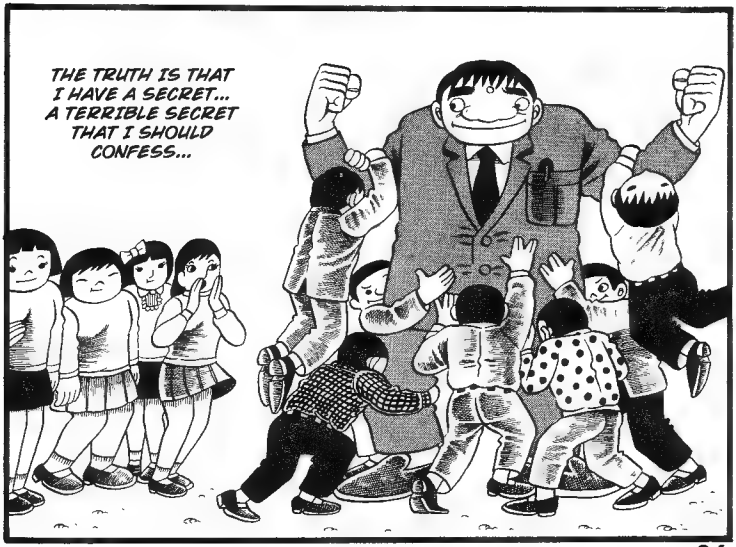

SO I'LL TAKE OVER THE CLASS.
MY SON ISN'T FEELING WELL TO-DAY...


WHAT IS IT NOW?

BUT HIS FATHER DOESN'T LIKE ANIMALS AT ALL.
OH, A LITTLE BIRD FLEW IN THROUGH THE WIN-DOW!

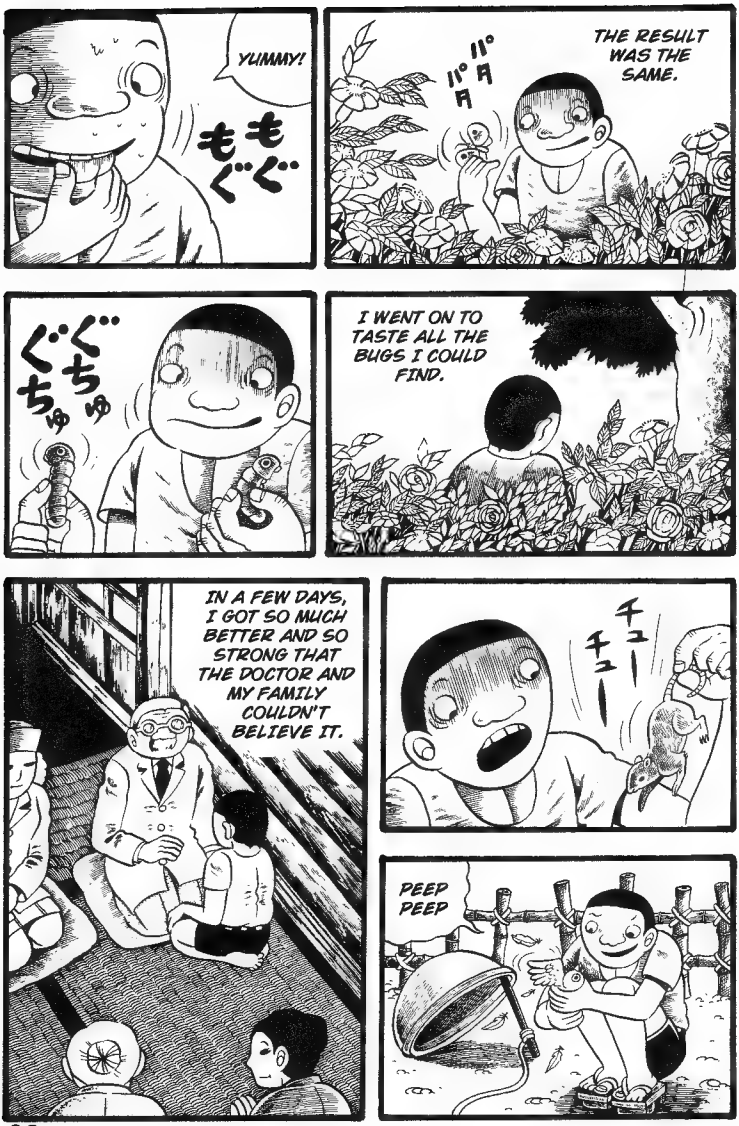

ARGH!!
UGH!!
AH...
SOME-BODY CATCH IT...
バタバタ
THE TEACHER'S FATHER IS VERY SCARED OF ANIMALS...
ぽか〜ん
ANYWAY, WE ALL LIKE OUR "BIG TEACHER" VERY MUCH.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A TEACHER. NOW THAT I WORK AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, THE STUDENTS CALL ME "BIG TEACHER". I LIKE CHILDREN VERY MUCH, BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN WONDERING IF I REALLY HAVE A VOCATION FOR THIS JOB.



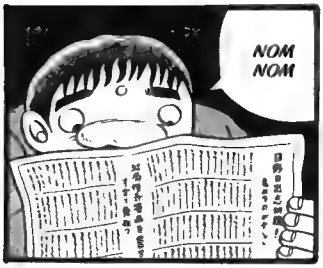
I WAS CONSTANTLY BEDRIDDEN AND SICK.
AS A CHILD, I WAS VERY WEAK.
OF COURSE I WASN'T AS HEALTHY AND ROBUST AS I AM NOW...
I WISH I COULD GO OUT, RUN AROUND AND PLAY...
UNTIL, ONE SUMMER DAY...

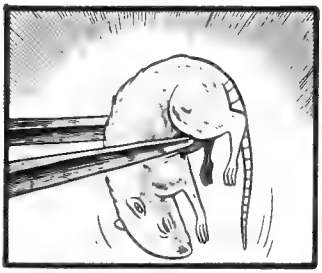
I CAN ONLY DREAM ...
THE MOMENT I ACCIDENTALLY SWALLOWED THE BUTTERFLY, I NOTICED THAT A WONDERFUL TASTE WAS FLOODING MY MOUTH...
GULP!
YAWN!
TO MAKE SURE, I DECIDED TO EAT ANOTHER BUTTER-FLY.
HOW YUMMY! I NEVER THOUGHT THAT BUTTER. FLIES WOULD TASTE LIKE THIS!
I ALSO BEGAN TO FEEL AN UNFAMILIAR STRENGTH GROWING IN MY BODY.


YUMMY!
もぐ
もぐ
THE RESULT WAS THE SAME.
ぐちゅ
ぐちゅ
I WENT ON TO TASTE ALL THE BUGS I COULD FIND.
IN A FEW DAYS, I GOT SO MUCH BETTER AND SO STRONG THAT THE DOCTOR AND MY FAMILY COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
チュー
チュー
PEEP
PEEP

GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
I WOULD LIKE TO QUIT, NOW THAT I AM A TEACHER... BUT I CAN'T.
THIS HOUSE IS LIKE A ZOO!
THIS IS NUTS!
THE BIRDS AND OTHER ANIMALS I HAVE AT HOME ARE NOT PETS.

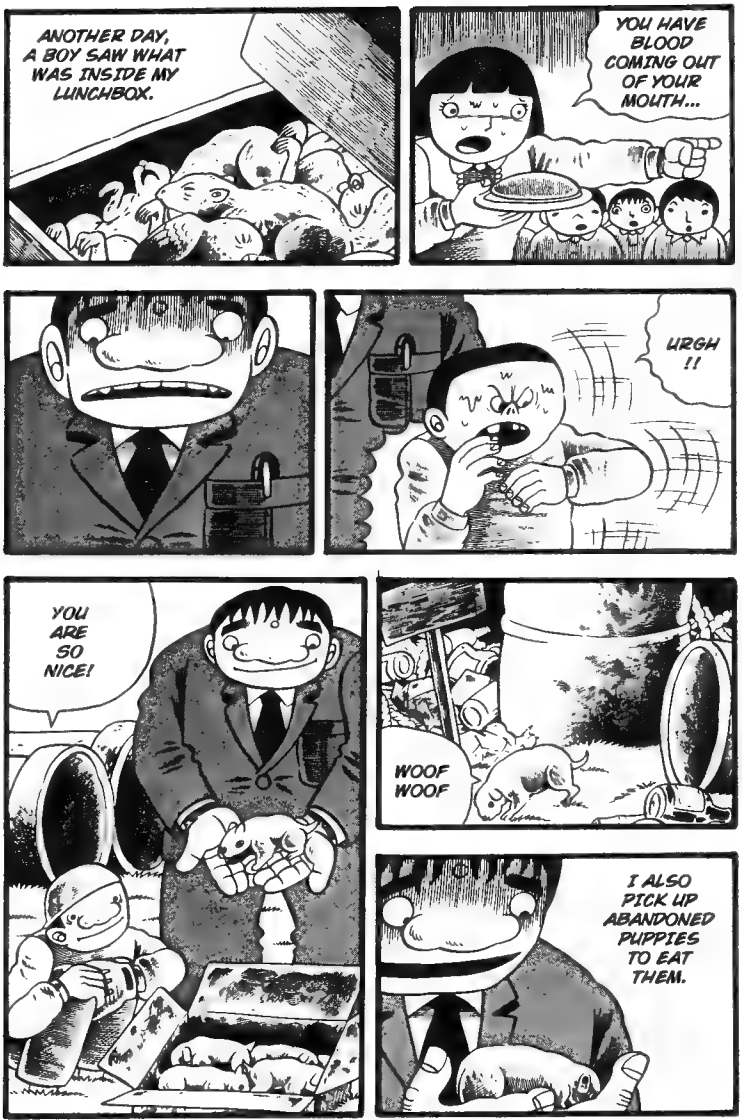
ONE DAY, A STUDENT SURPRISED ME...
I BROUGHT A BIRD AND A SQUIRREL TO SCHOOL EARLY IN THE MORN-ING.
HOWEVER, THERE WERE A FEW TIMES WHEN MY STUDENTS ALMOST FOUND OUT ABOUT IT.
I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF AND ATE THE BIRD.
AND WHEN I TOOK THEM FROM THEIR BOXES ...
EEK!!
がっ
ガリ ガリ

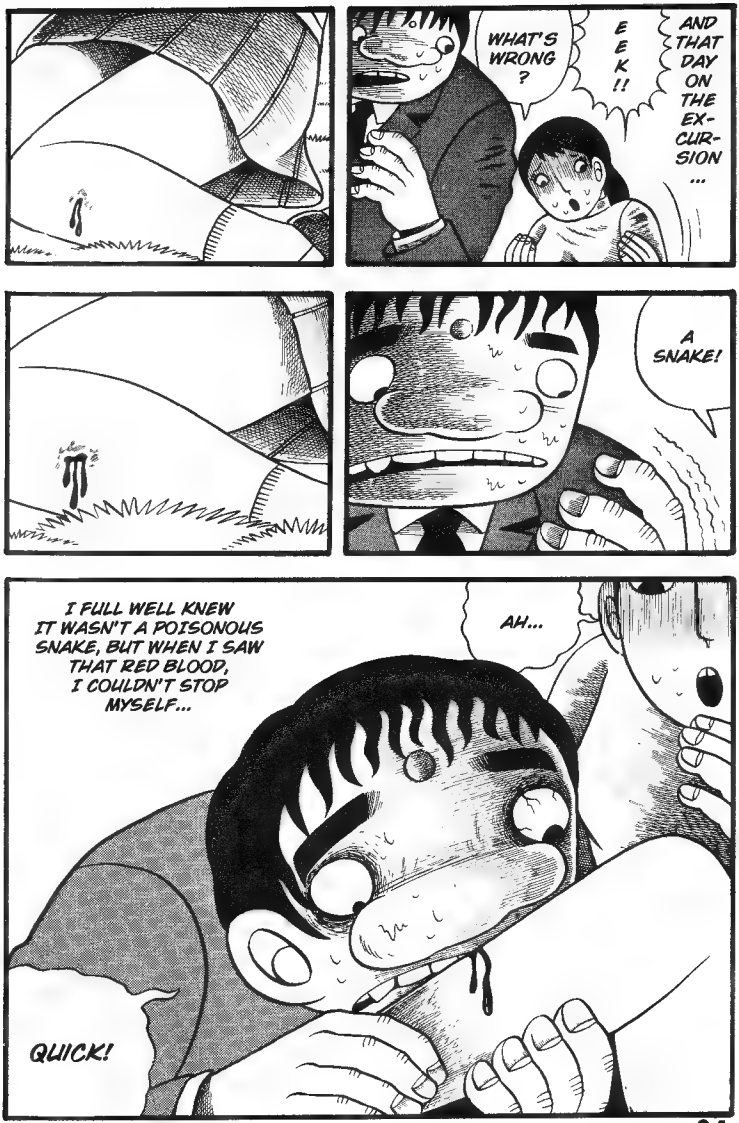

NOM NOM



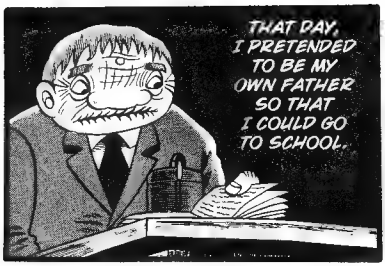
ENJOY YOUR MEAL.
THE OTHER DAY, I TOOK THE LUNCH-BOX FULL OF MICE AND BIRDS TO SCHOOL.
ENJOY YOUR MEAL.
ENJOY YOUR MEAL.

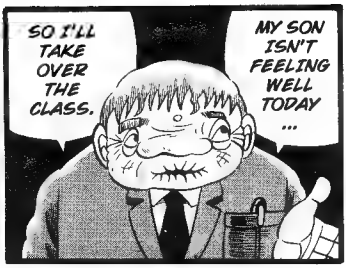
I DIDN'T REALIZE BLOOD WAS OOZING OUT OF MY MOUTH.


ANOTHER DAY, A BOY SAW WHAT WAS INSIDE MY LUNCHBOX.
YOU HAVE BLOOD COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH...
URGH !!
YOU ARE SO NICE!
WOOF WOOF
I ALSO PICK UP ABANDONED PUPPIES TO EAT THEM.

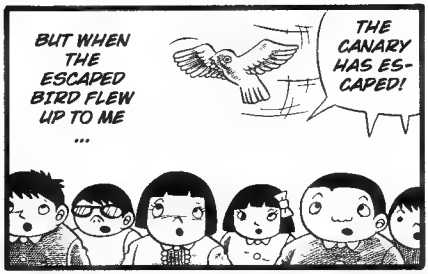

AND THAT DAY ON THE EXCURSION ...
EEK!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
A SNAKE!
AH...
I FULL WELL KNEW IT WASN'T A POISONOUS SNAKE, BUT WHEN I SAW THAT RED BLOOD, I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF...
QUICK!

I TRIED TO STOP... BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID... I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF...
I'M GOING TO DIE ...
SQUEAK SQUEAK
BUT IF I GO A SINGLE DAY WITHOUT EATING A LIVING THING, I LOSE ALL MY STRENGTH AND BECOME A DECREPIT OLD MAN...
UUUGH ...


THAT DAY, I PRETENDED TO BE MY OWN FATHER SO THAT I COULD GO TO SCHOOL.

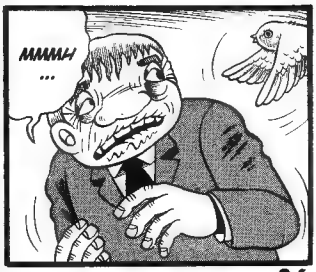

SO I'LL TAKE OVER THE CLASS.
MY SON ISN'T FEELING WELL TODAY ...

I FELT AN IRRESISTIBLE CRAVING...

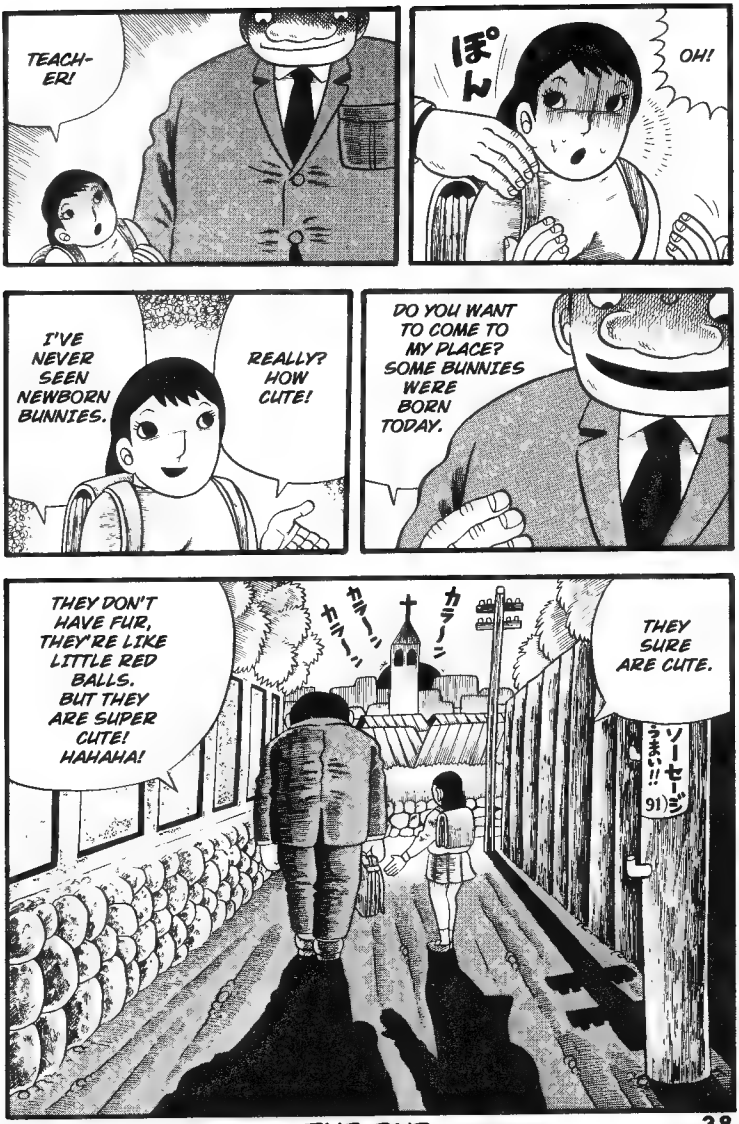

BUT WHEN THE ESCAPED BIRD FLEW UP TO ME ...
THE CANARY HAS ESCAPED!

I TRIED TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE.

UAH!!

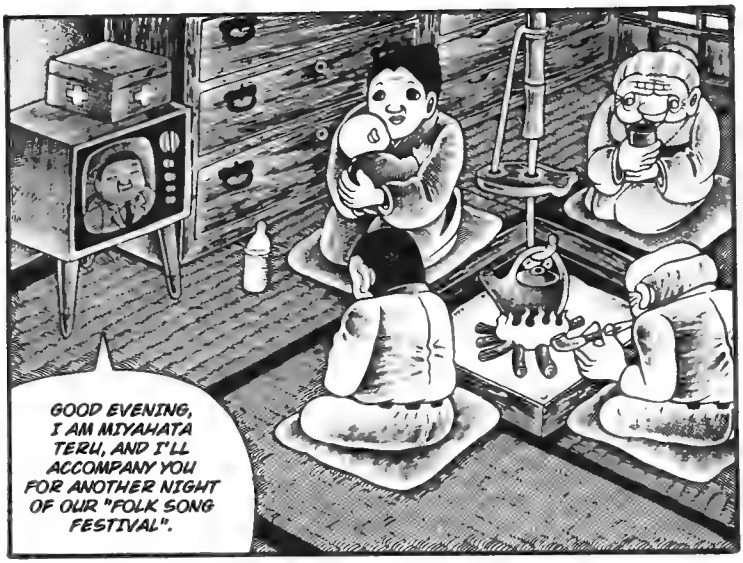

MMMH ...

BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
I CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT EATING LIVING THINGS. I KNOW THAT NOW.
SINCE THE DAY OF THE EXCURSION, I CAN'T GET THAT SWEET TASTE OUT OF MY MIND.
BYE-BYE!
SEE YA!


TEACH-ER!
ぽん
OH!
I'VE NEVER SEEN NEWBORN BUNNIES.
REALLY? HOW CUTE!
DO YOU WANT TO COME TO MY PLACE? SOME BUNNIES WERE BORN TODAY.
THEY DON'T HAVE FUR, THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE RED BALLS, BUT THEY ARE SUPER CUTE! HAHAHA!
カラーン
カラーン
THEY SURE ARE CUTE.
ソーセージ うまい!! 91

THE END

HELLO, MR. CATFISH


GOOD EVENING, I AM MIYAHATA TERU, AND I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU FOR ANOTHER NIGHT OF OUR "FOLK SONG FESTIVAL".

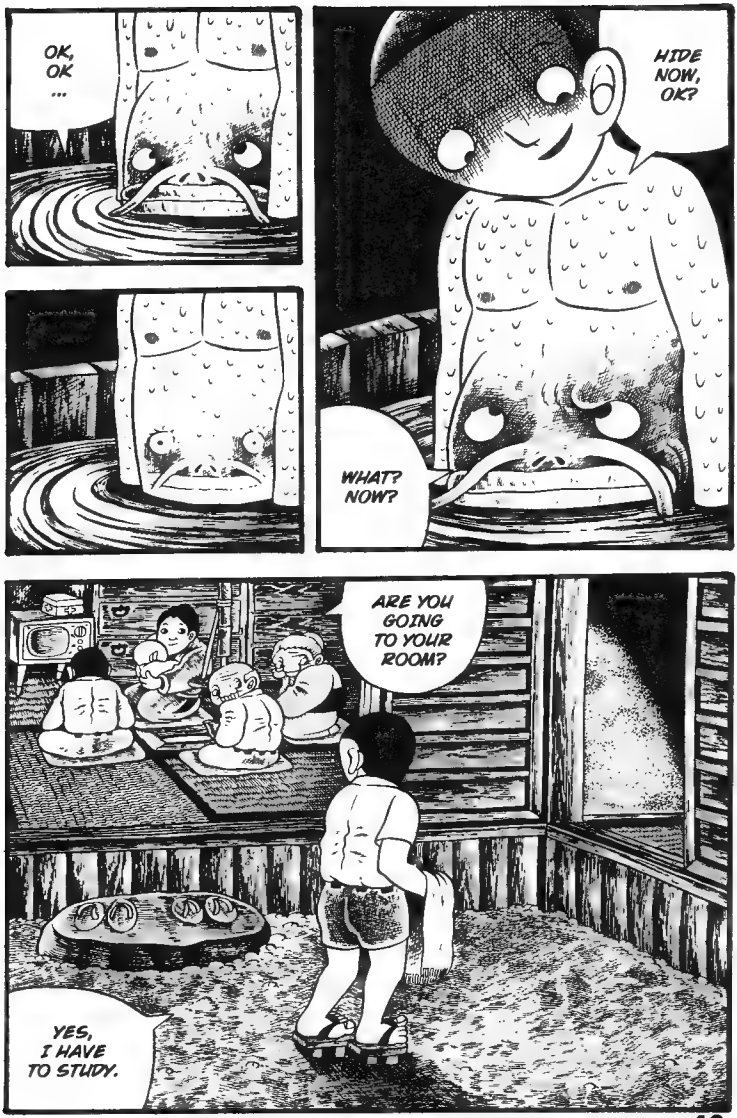
HE'S PROBABLY TAKING ANOTHER BATH...

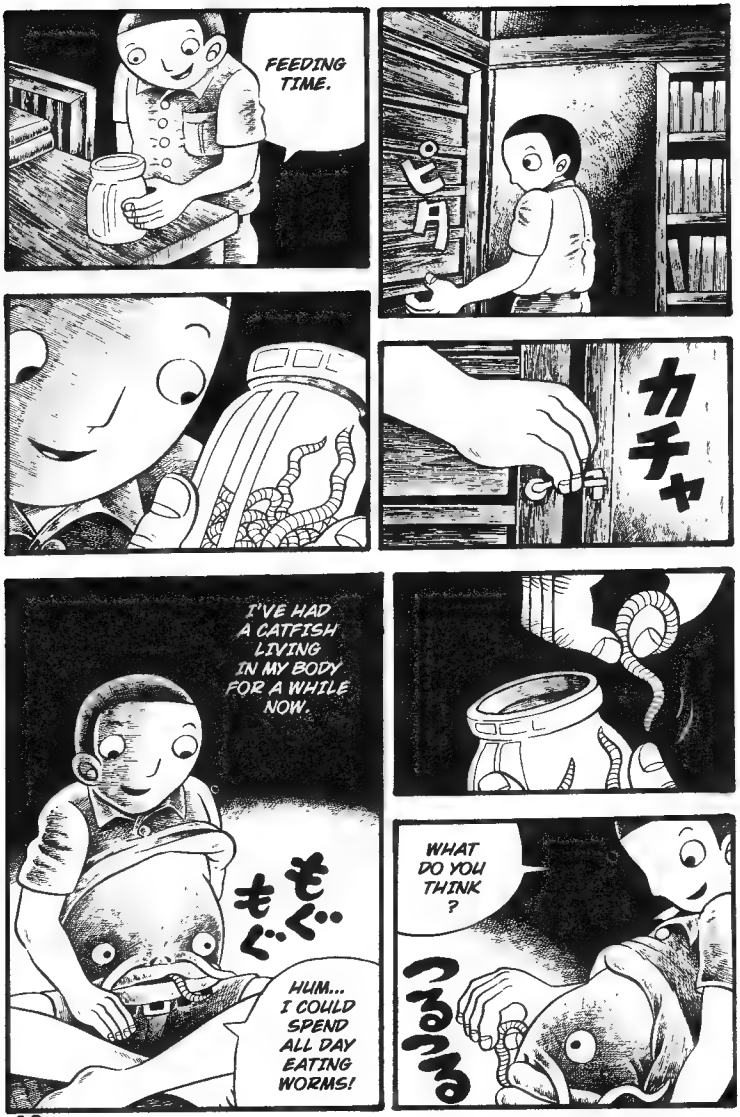
WHERE IS TARO ?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S THE BEST THING EVER! WHEN I WAS YOUNG I ALSO BATHED EVERY DAY.

THIS DAILY BATHING CAN'T BE A GOOD THING...

TRUE, AND HE EATS EVERYTHING. NOT LIKE BEFORE...
IT CAN'T BE BAD... HE IS MUCH STRONGER LATELY.
SO MUCH TIME ALONE IN THE BATH-ROOM... IS HE DOING DIRTY THINGS ?
THAT'S BECAUSE HE WAS AN ONLY CHILD AND YOU SPOILED HIM. NOW, WITH HIS LITTLE BROTHER, HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO MAN UP.
HE STILL HAS A FEW YEARS BEFORE HE'LL THINK ABOUT THAT!
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON... HEHEHE!

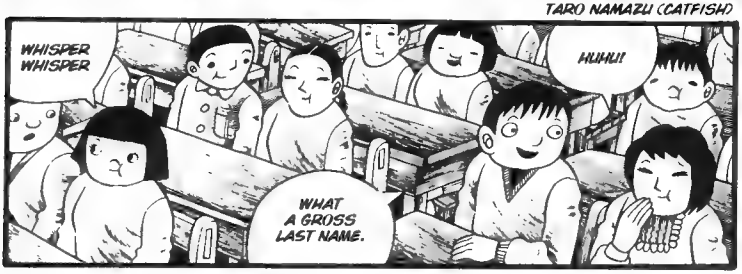

OK, OK ...
HIDE NOW, OK?
WHAT? NOW?
ARE YOU GOING TO YOUR ROOM?
YES, I HAVE TO STUDY.

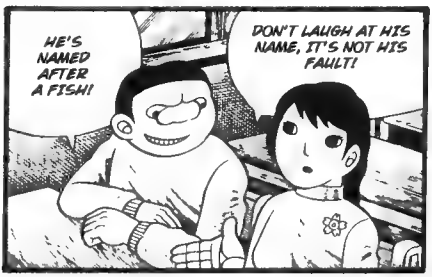

FEEDING TIME.
ピタ
カチャ
I'VE HAD A CATFISH LIVING IN MY BODY FOR A WHILE NOW.
もぐもぐ
HUM... I COULD SPEND ALL DAY EATING WORMS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK ?
つるつる

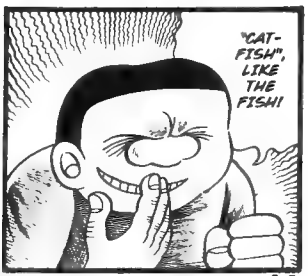
*THURSDAY 15, TARO NAMAZU (CATFISH)

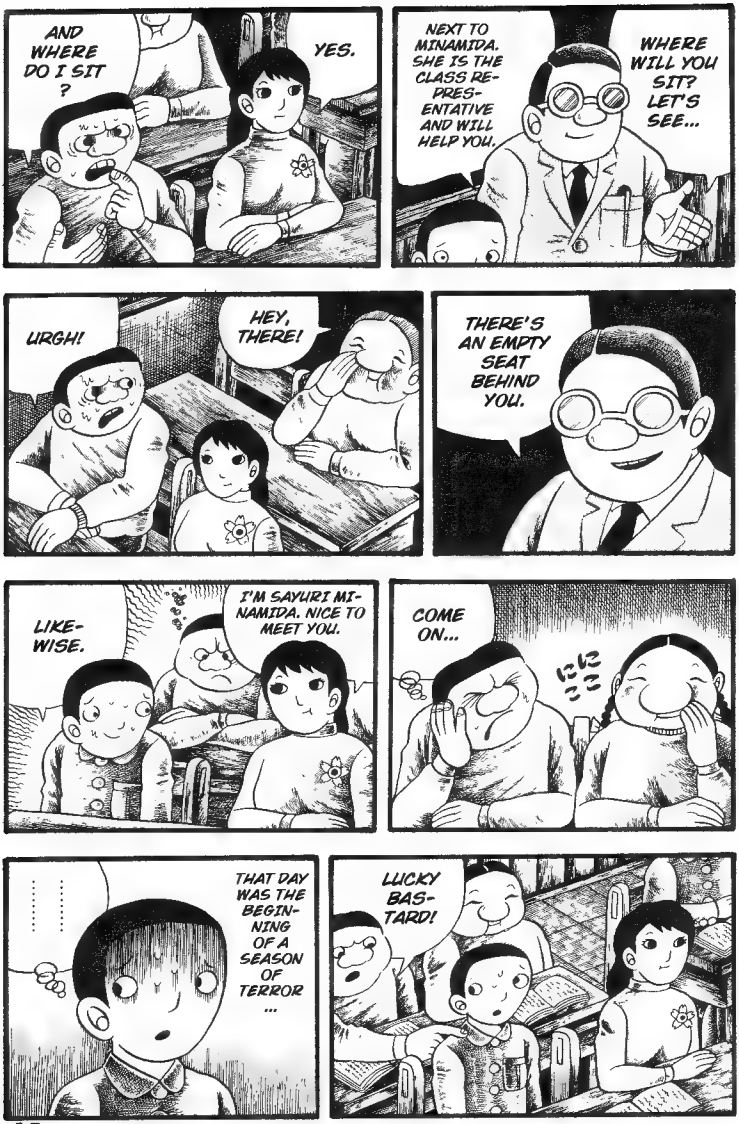
HELLO... EVERY-ONE...
IN TARO'S VILLAGE THERE ARE NO OTHER CHILDREN AND THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN CLOSED. FROM TODAY HE WILL STUDY WITH US.

TARO NAMAZU (CATFISH)








AND WHERE DO I SIT ?
YES.
NEXT TO MINAMIDA. SHE IS THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE AND WILL HELP YOU.
WHERE WILL YOU SIT? LET'S SEE...
URGH!
HEY, THERE!
THERE'S AN EMPTY SEAT BEHIND YOU.
LIKEWISE.
I'M SAYURI MINAMIDA. NICE TO MEET YOU.
COME ON...
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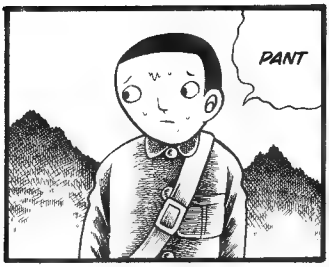
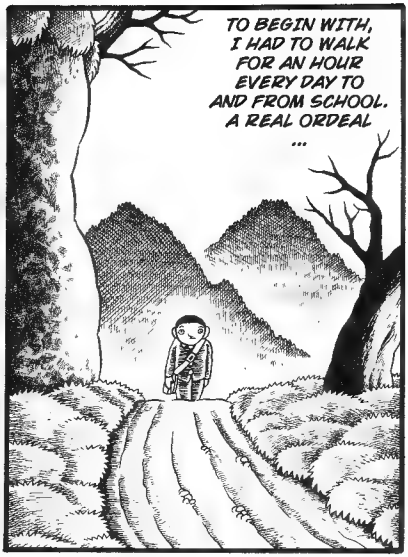
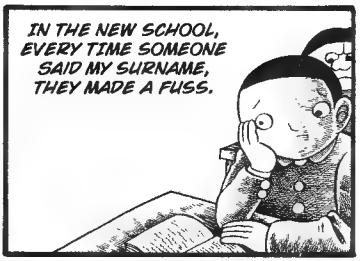
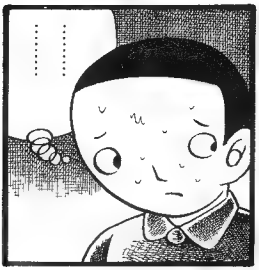
.....
THAT DAY WAS THE BEGINNING OF A SEASON OF TERROR ...
LUCKY BASTARD!

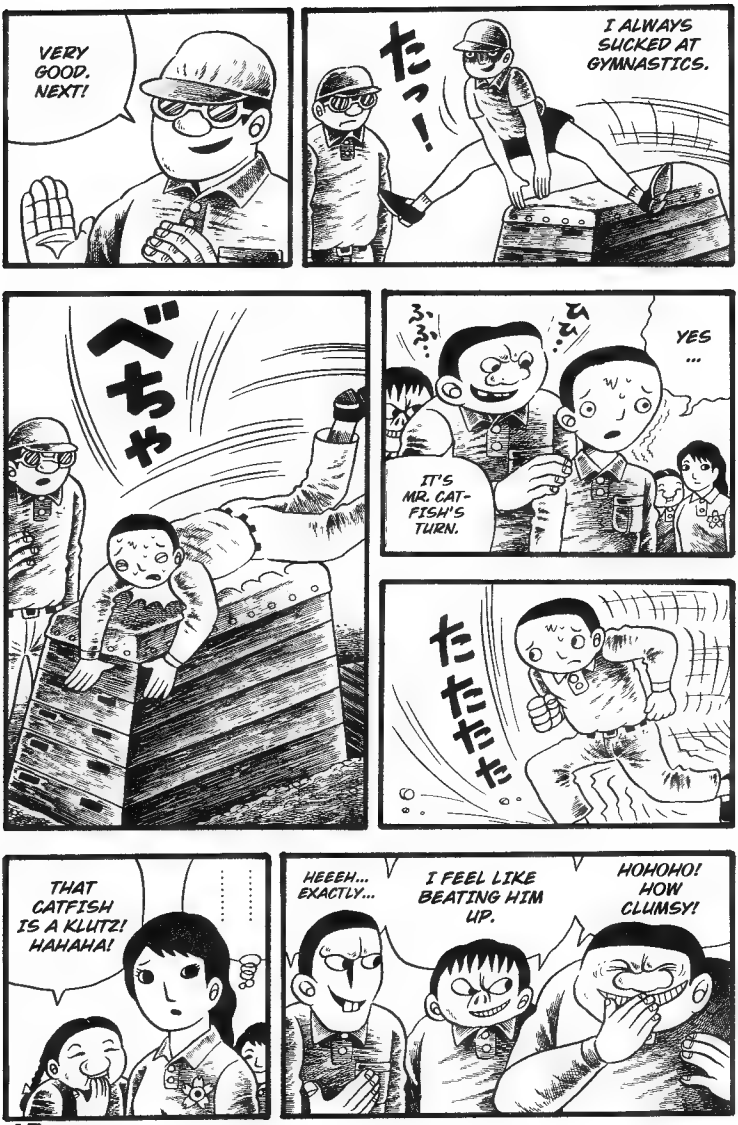


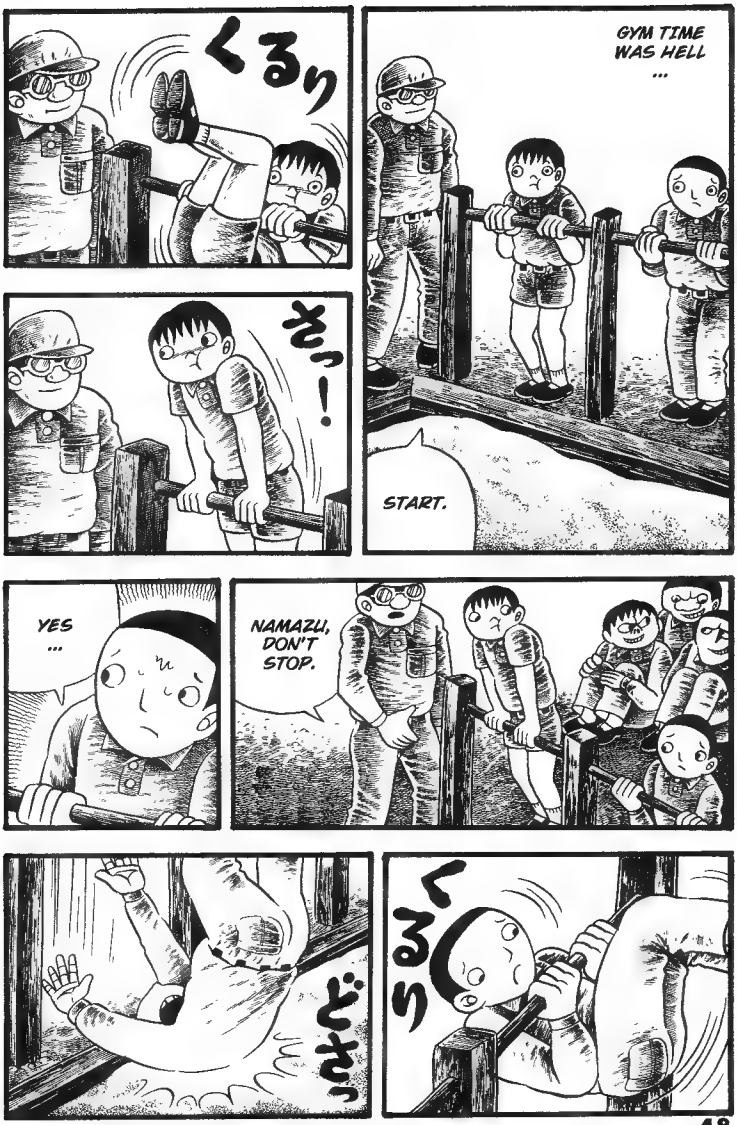




*FAMOUS MANGA ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

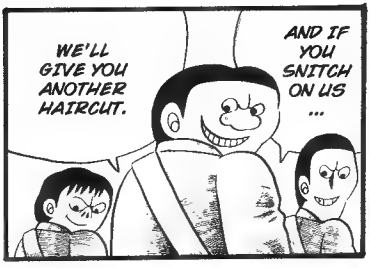


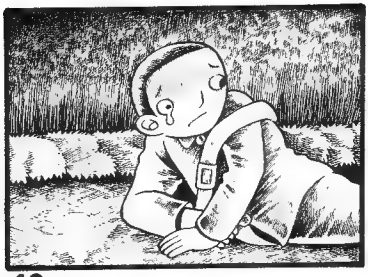

VERY GOOD. NEXT!
たっ！
I ALWAYS SUCKED AT GYMNASTICS.
べちゃ
ふふ…
ひひ…
YES …
IT'S MR. CAT-FISH'S TURN.
たたたた
THAT CATFISH IS A KLUTZ! HAHAHA!
HEEEH… EXACTLY…
I FEEL LIKE BEATING HIM UP.
HOHOHO! HOW CLUMSY!


くるり
GYM TIME WAS HELL ...
さっ！
START.
YES ...
NAMAZU, DON'T STOP.
くるり
どさっ

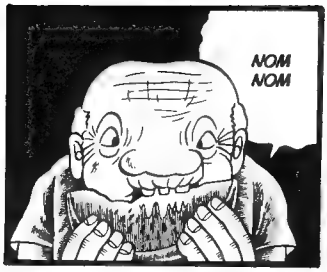
BECAUSE OF YOU, THEY MADE ME SIT NEXT TO THE FAT COW.
YOU SHOULDN'T SIT NEXT TO MINAMI-DA.
EVERY DAY, THOSE THREE WERE WAITING FOR ME TO MESS WITH ME.

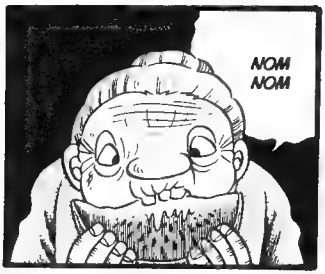
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, SISSY ?

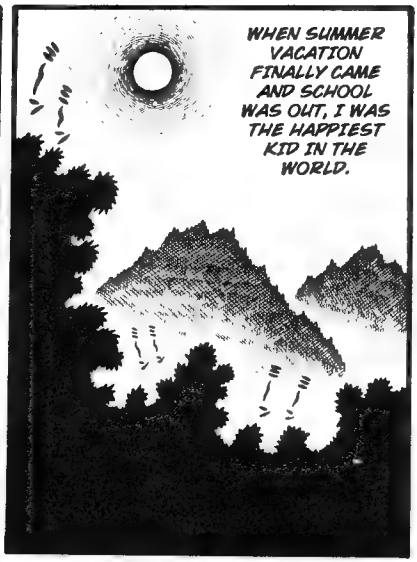

WE'LL GIVE YOU ANOTHER HAIRCUT.
AND IF YOU SNITCH ON US ...

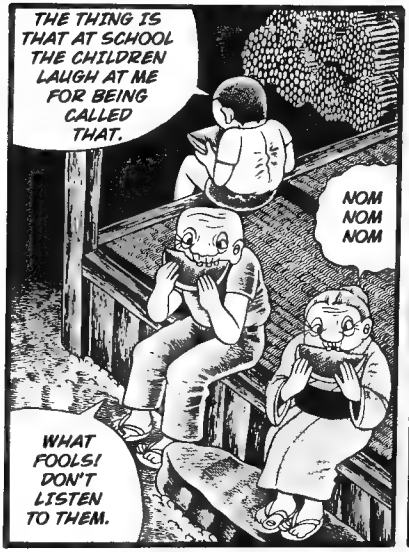


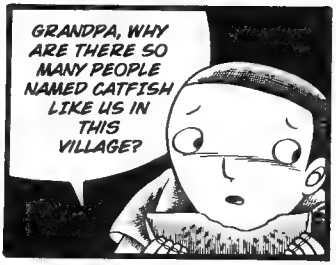
NOW YOU'LL SEE, YOU LITTLE SHIT!
GIVE ME BACK MY SEAT!


NOM
NOM

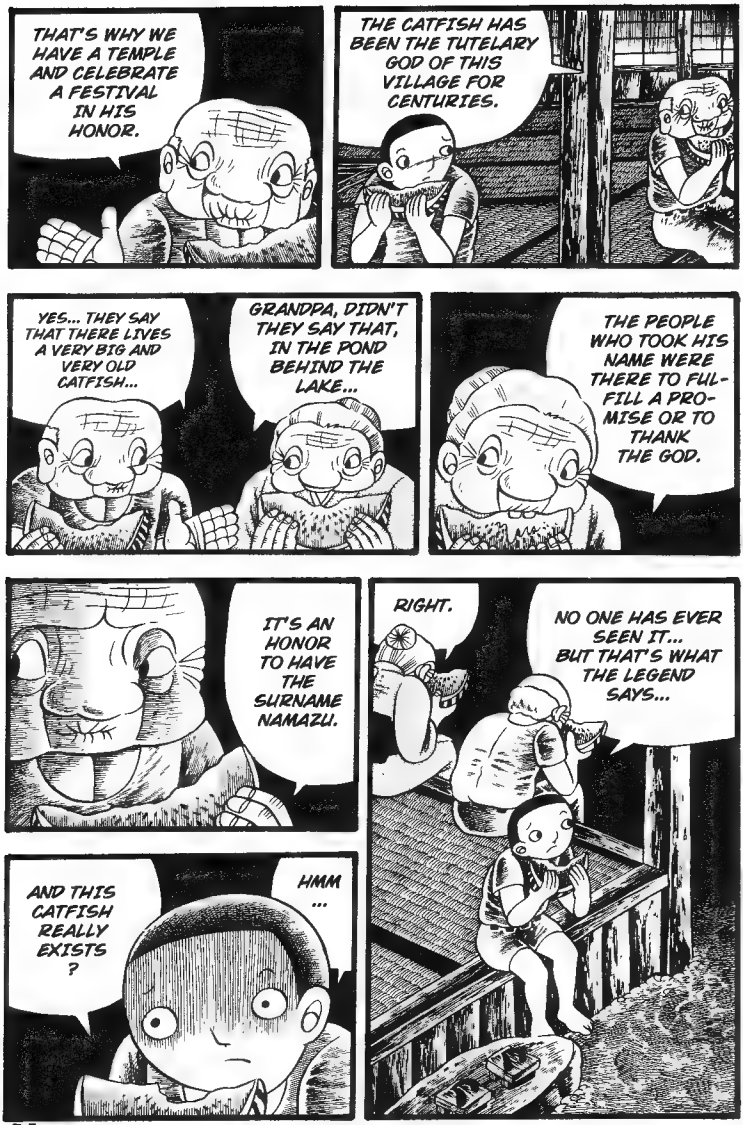

NOM
NOM

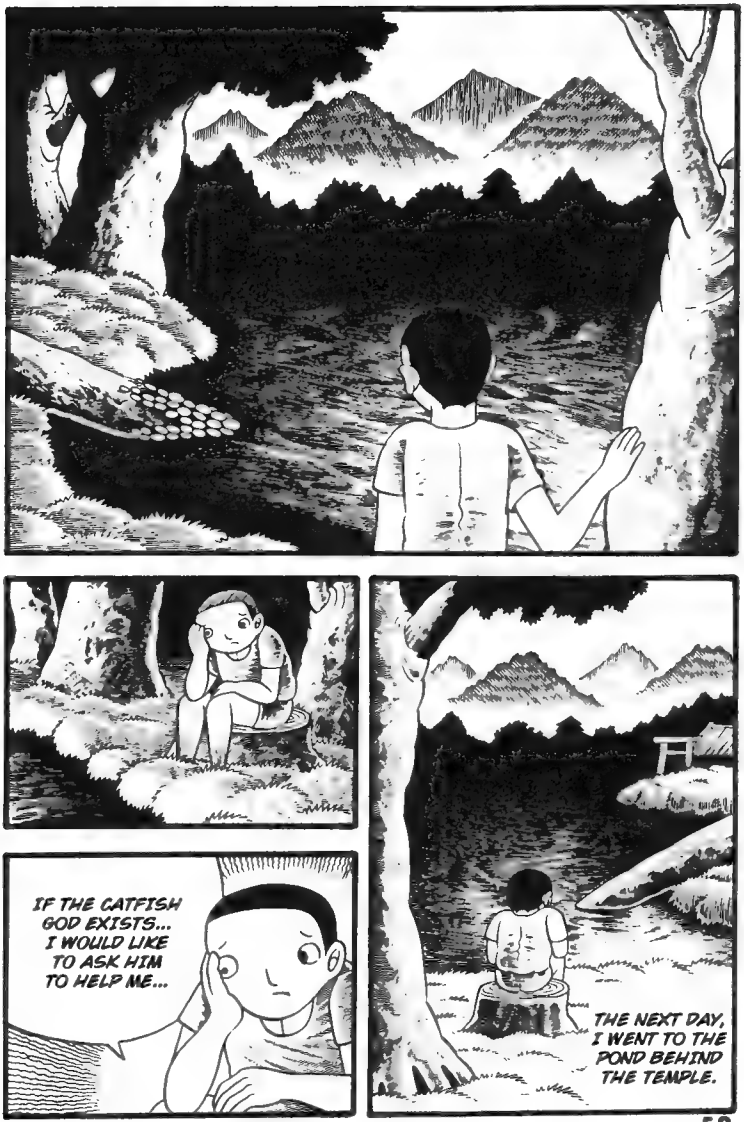

WHEN SUMMER VACATION FINALLY CAME AND SCHOOL WAS OUT, I WAS THE HAPPIEST KID IN THE WORLD.

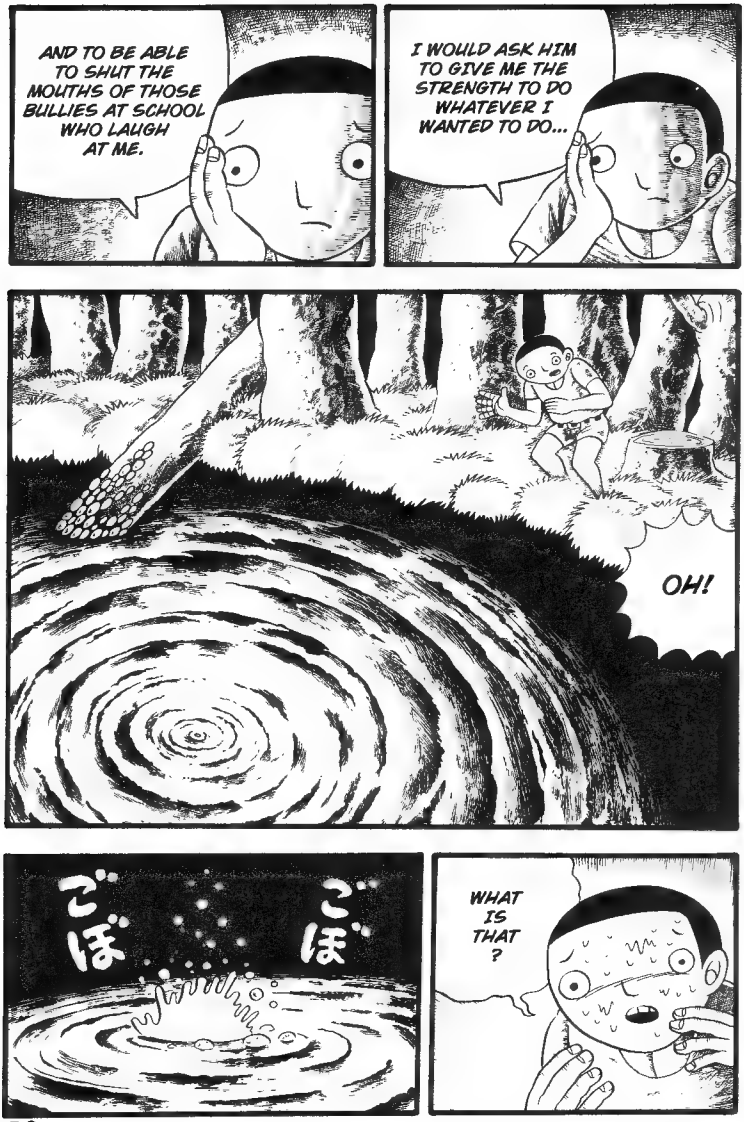

THE THING IS THAT AT SCHOOL THE CHILDREN LAUGH AT ME FOR BEING CALLED THAT.
NOM
NOM
NOM
WHAT FOOLS! DON'T LISTEN TO THEM.


GRANDPA, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE NAMED CATFISH LIKE US IN THIS VILLAGE?

WHY DO YOU ASK THAT QUESTION NOW?


THAT'S WHY WE HAVE A TEMPLE AND CELEBRATE A FESTIVAL IN HIS HONOR.
THE CATFISH HAS BEEN THE TUTELARY GOD OF THIS VILLAGE FOR CENTURIES.
YES... THEY SAY THAT THERE LIVES A VERY BIG AND VERY OLD CATFISH...
GRANDPA, DIDN'T THEY SAY THAT, IN THE POND BEHIND THE LAKE...
THE PEOPLE WHO TOOK HIS NAME WERE THERE TO FULFILL A PROMISE OR TO THANK THE GOD.
IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE THE SURNAME NAMAZU.
RIGHT.
NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN IT... BUT THAT'S WHAT THE LEGEND SAYS...
AND THIS CATFISH REALLY EXISTS ?
HMM ...


IF THE CATFISH GOD EXISTS... I WOULD LIKE TO ASK HIM TO HELP ME...
THE NEXT DAY, I WENT TO THE POND BEHIND THE TEMPLE.


AND TO BE ABLE TO SHUT THE MOUTHS OF THOSE BULLIES AT SCHOOL WHO LAUGH AT ME.
I WOULD ASK HIM TO GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO DO WHATEVER I WANTED TO DO...
OH!
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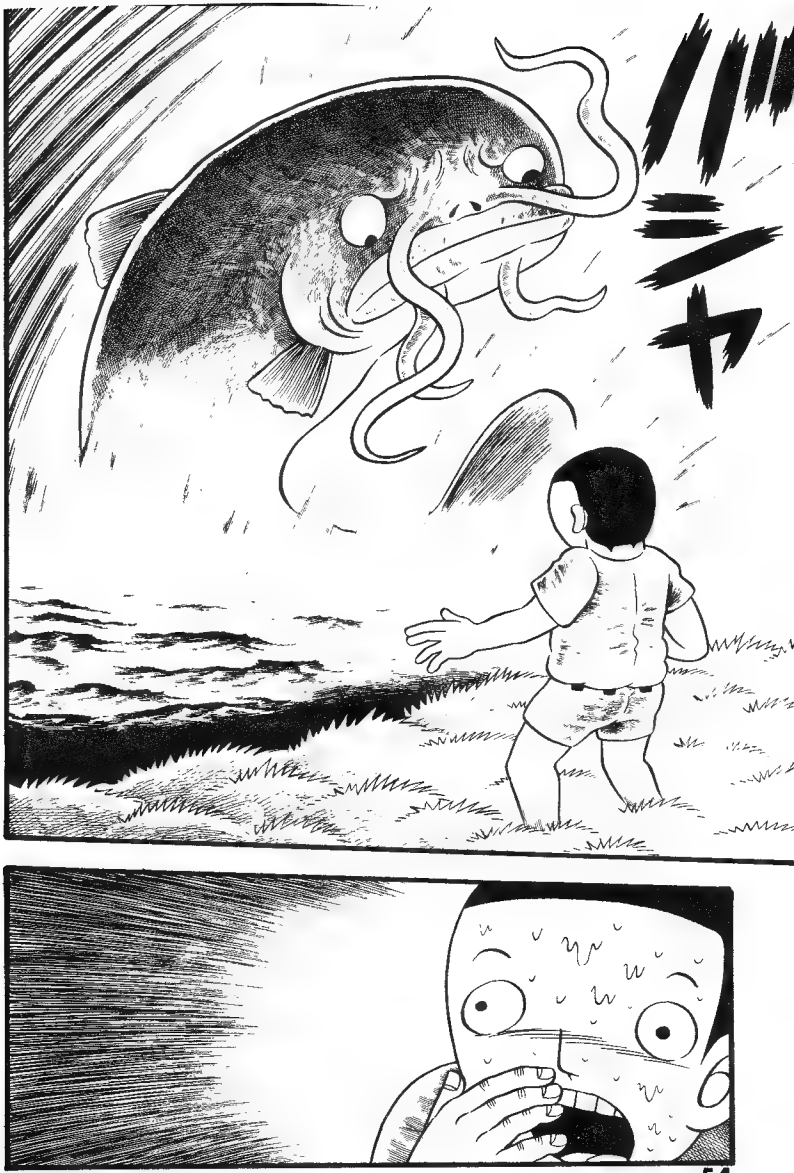
WHAT IS THAT ?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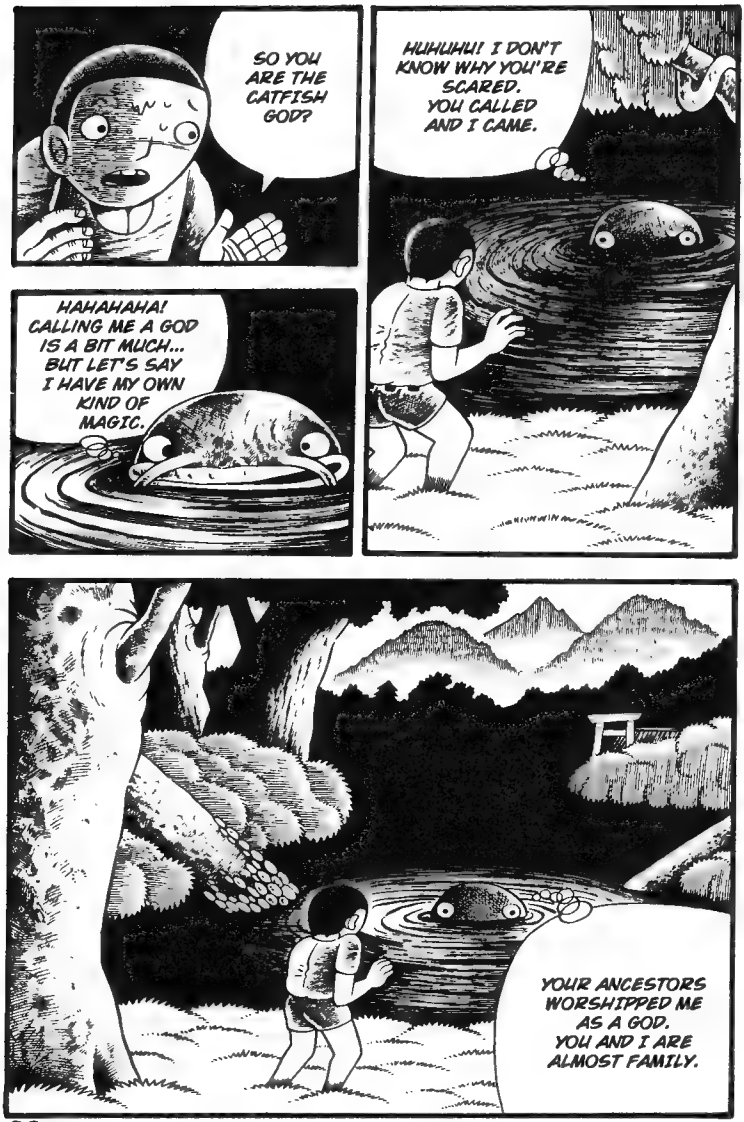
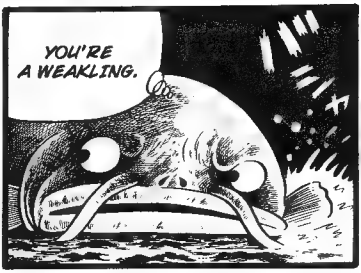
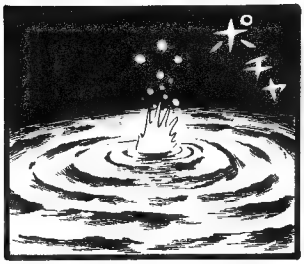

SO YOU ARE THE CATFISH GOD?
HUHUHU! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SCARED. YOU CALLED AND I CAME.
HAHAHAHA! CALLING ME A GOD IS A BIT MUCH... BUT LET'S SAY I HAVE MY OWN KIND OF MAGIC.
YOUR ANCESTORS WORSHIPPED ME AS A GOD. YOU AND I ARE ALMOST FAMILY.

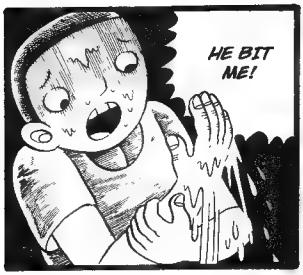
BUT I'LL LEND YOU MY STRENGTH.
REALLY?

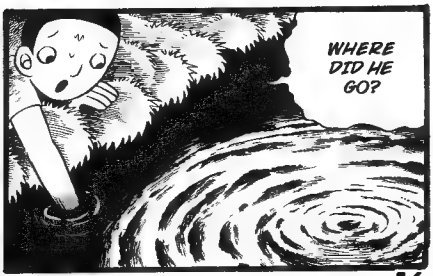
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO HELP YOU.

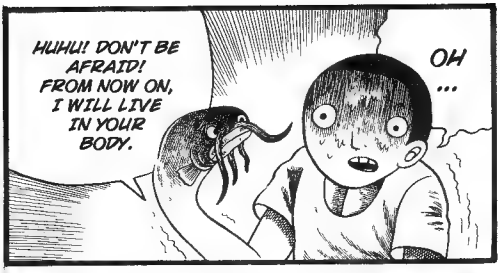

YOU'RE A WEAKLING.



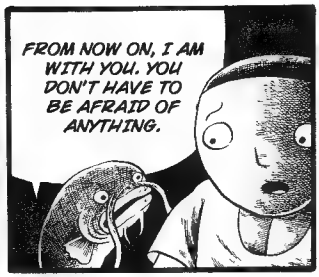
PUT YOUR HAND IN THE WATER.

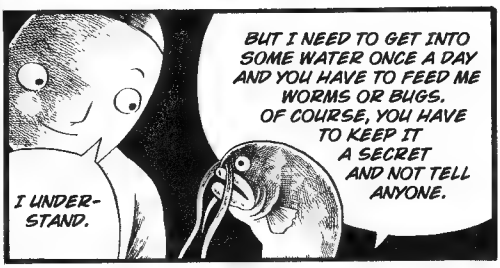

HE BIT ME!

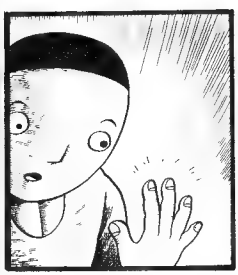

WHERE DID HE GO?


HUHU! DON'T BE AFRAID! FROM NOW ON, I WILL LIVE IN YOUR BODY.
OH ...

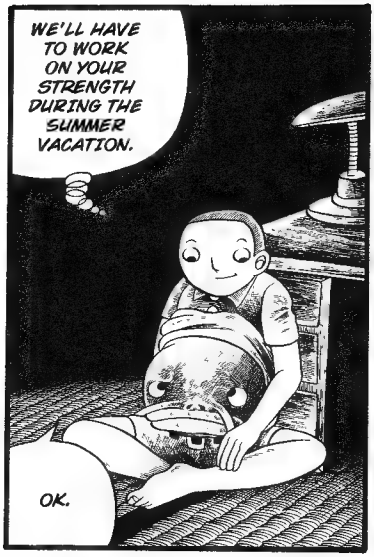
OK ...

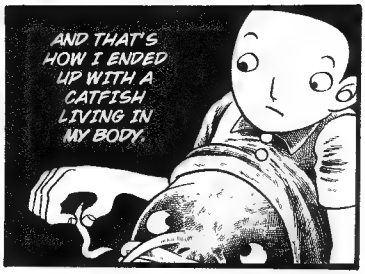

FROM NOW ON, I AM WITH YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

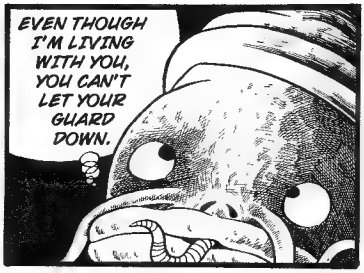

I UNDER-STAND.
BUT I NEED TO GET INTO SOME WATER ONCE A DAY AND YOU HAVE TO FEED ME WORMS OR BUGS. OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET AND NOT TELL ANYONE.



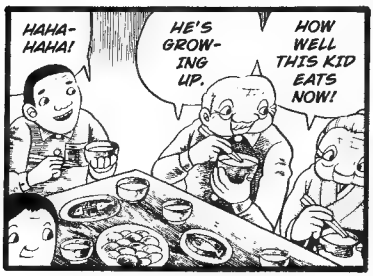
PERFECT, I'LL HIDE THEN.


WE'LL HAVE TO WORK ON YOUR STRENGTH DURING THE SUMMER VACATION.
OK.

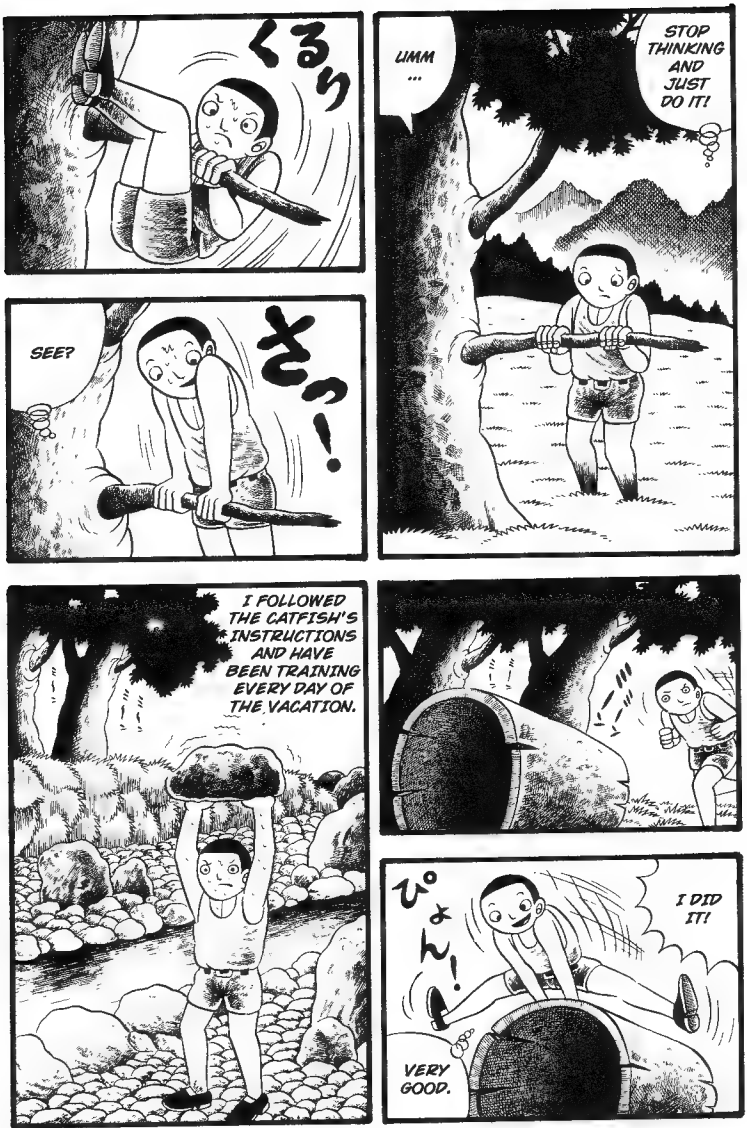

AND THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP WITH A CATFISH LIVING IN MY BODY.


EVEN THOUGH I'M LIVING WITH YOU, YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

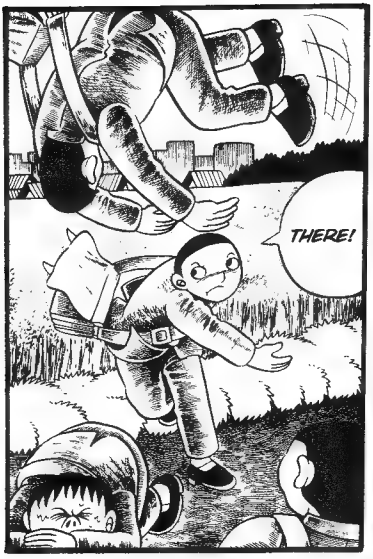
ぴちゃ
ぴちゃ
NOM NOM NOM


HAHA-HAHA!
HE'S GROW-ING UP.
HOW WELL THIS KID EATS NOW!

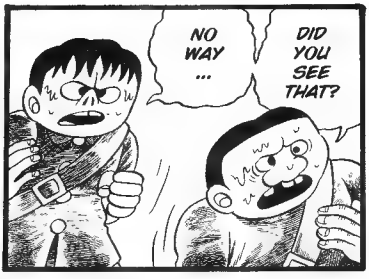
PANT PANT
COME ON!

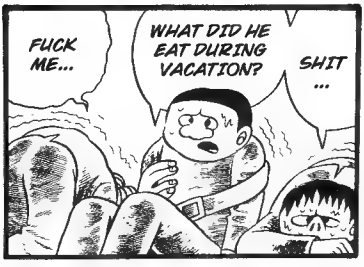

くるり
UMM ...
STOP THINKING AND JUST DO IT!
SEE?
さっ!
I FOLLOWED THE CATFISH'S INSTRUCTIONS AND HAVE BEEN TRAINING EVERY DAY OF THE VACATION.
ぴょん!
I DID IT!
VERY GOOD.

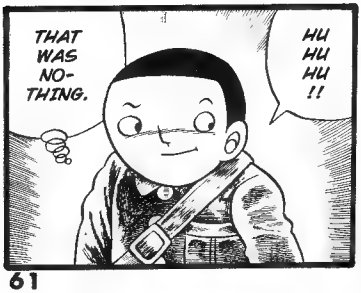
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SISSY?
WHEN THE SUMMER WAS OVER, I HAD TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL.
HUHU-HU!
ARGH!
THE BASTARD! NOW WE'LL SHOW HIM...
HE'S LAUGH-ING!
TAKE THIS!
とっ!


THERE!

どさっ


NO WAY ...
DID YOU SEE THAT?


FUCK ME...
WHAT DID HE EAT DURING VACATION?
SHIT ...

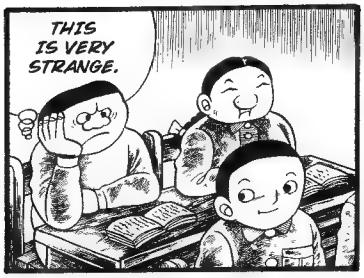

THAT WAS NO-THING.
HU HU HU !!

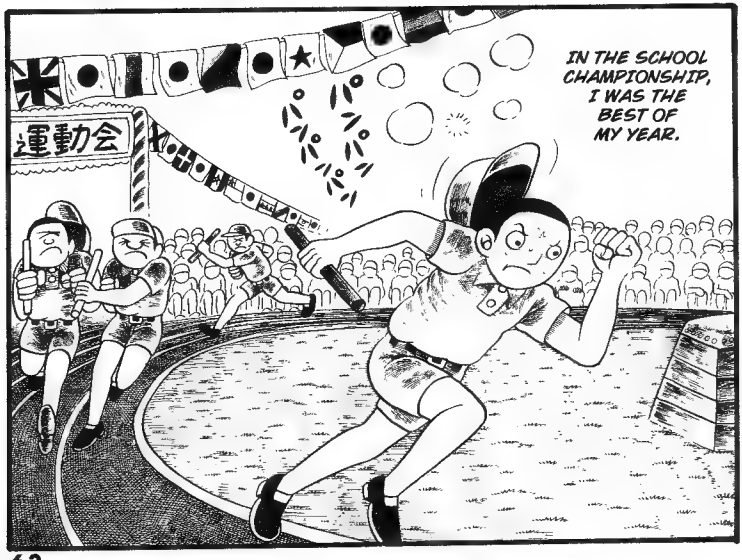
IF YOU GUYS MESS WITH ME AGAIN, I'LL REALLY FUCK YOU UP.
UGH ...

たっ！
KNOWING I HAD THE CATFISH WITH ME, I GAINED CONFIDENCE AND ANYTHING SEEMED POSSIBLE.
たったったっ
HOW DID HE DO IT?
AMA-ZING!
BAH!
UAAH
ぐるぐる
HOW DID HE CHANGE SO MUCH?
HOW CUTE!
OH!

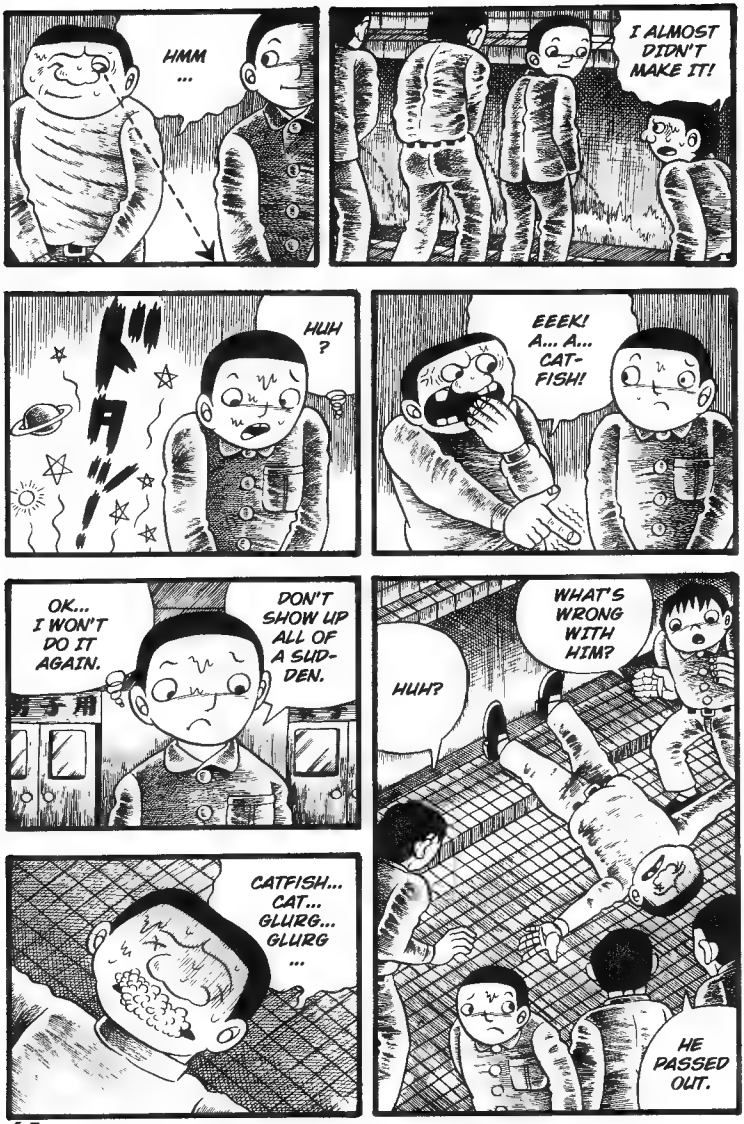
HAHAHA! I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING.
NAMAZU, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT...

THERE WAS NO SPORT I DIDN'T EXCEL IN.

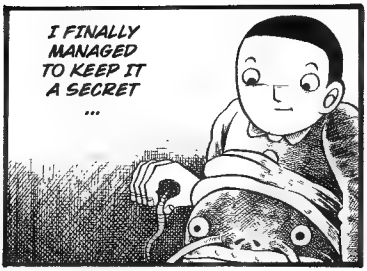

THIS IS VERY STRANGE.

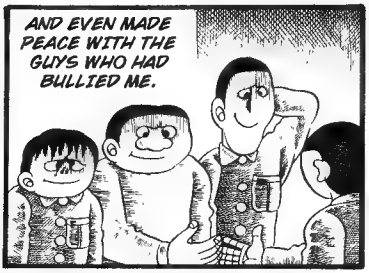

運動会
IN THE SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP, I WAS THE BEST OF MY YEAR.

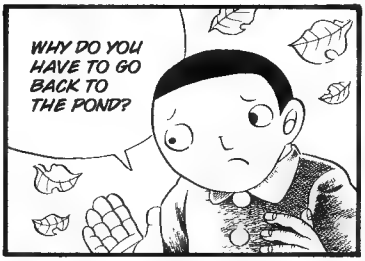
OHHHH!
ONCE THEY ALMOST DISCOVERED MY SECRET.
SOME-THING'S FISHY HERE.
どたっ
KYAAA! A CAT-FISH!
UH ...
HE HAD A CAT-FISH ON HIS HEAD!
WHO'S MAKING A FUSS ?
HAHA!
HEH!
HOHO!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO MAKE SUCH JOKES IN CLASS!
こつん!


HMM ...
I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT!
ドタ!!
HUH ?
EEEK! A... A... CAT-FISH!
OK... I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
DON'T SHOW UP ALL OF A SUD-DEN.
CATFISH... CAT... GLURG... GLURG ...
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
HE PASSED OUT.

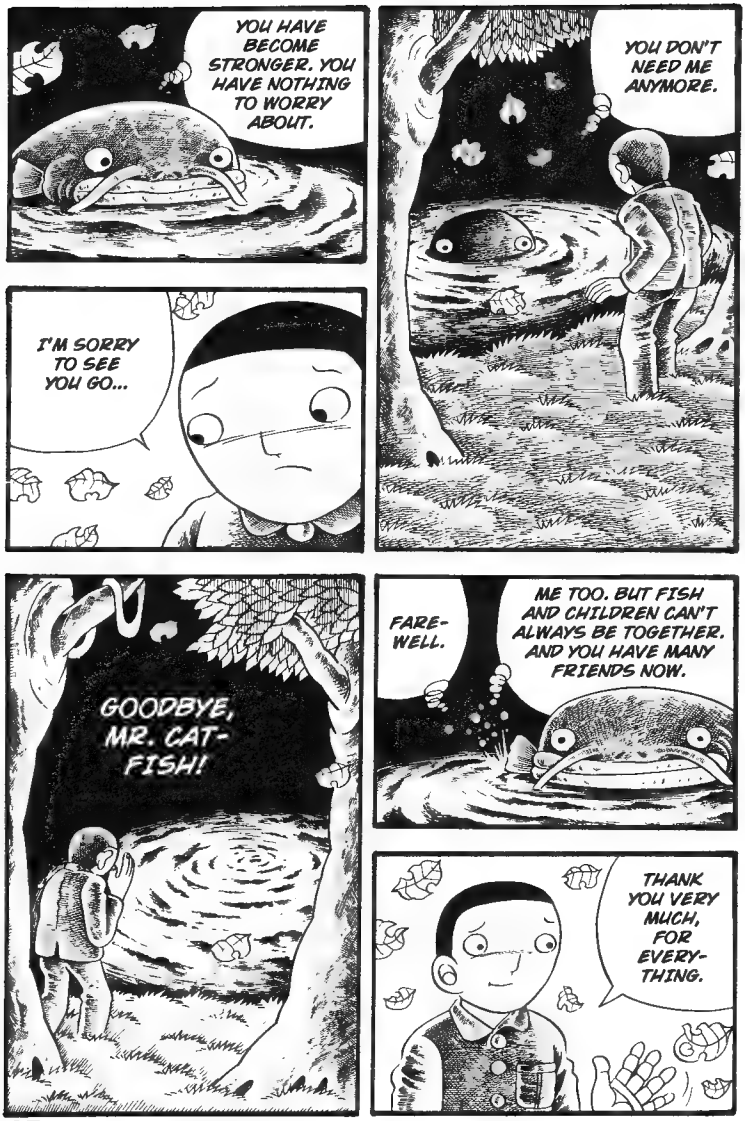
カラーン
カラーン
NOW I LOVE GOING TO SCHOOL BECAUSE I HAVE SO MANY FRIENDS.

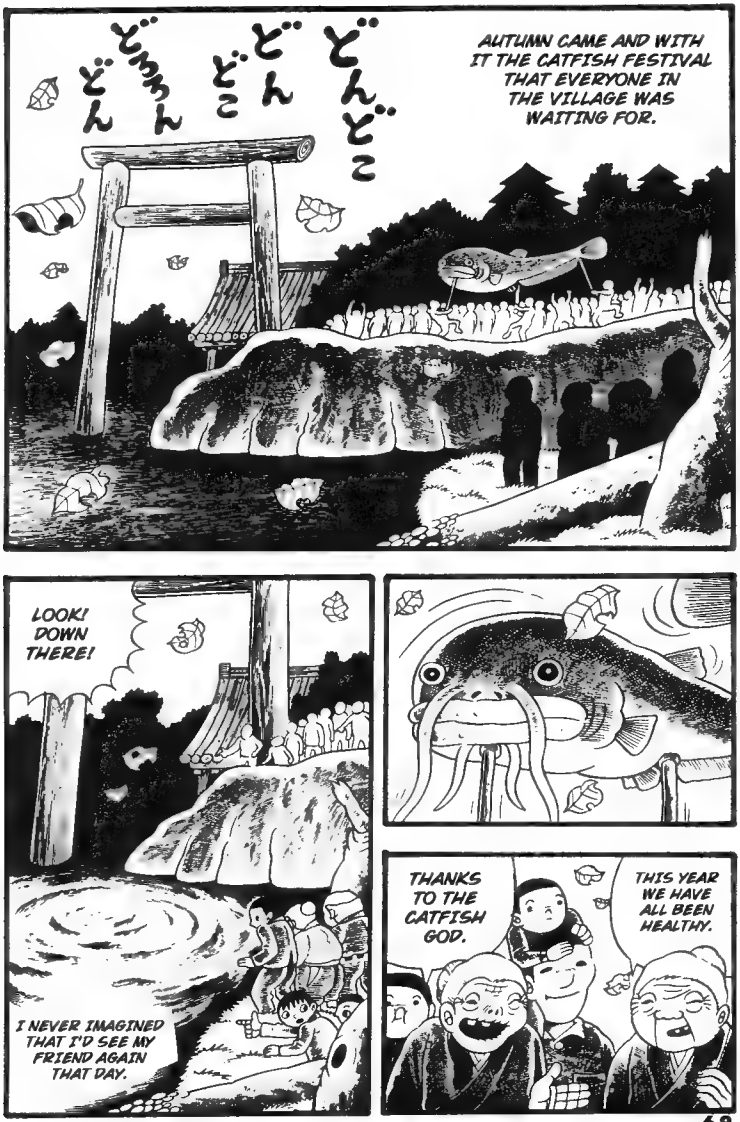

I FINALLY MANAGED TO KEEP IT A SECRET ...


AND EVEN MADE PEACE WITH THE GUYS WHO HAD BULLIED ME.

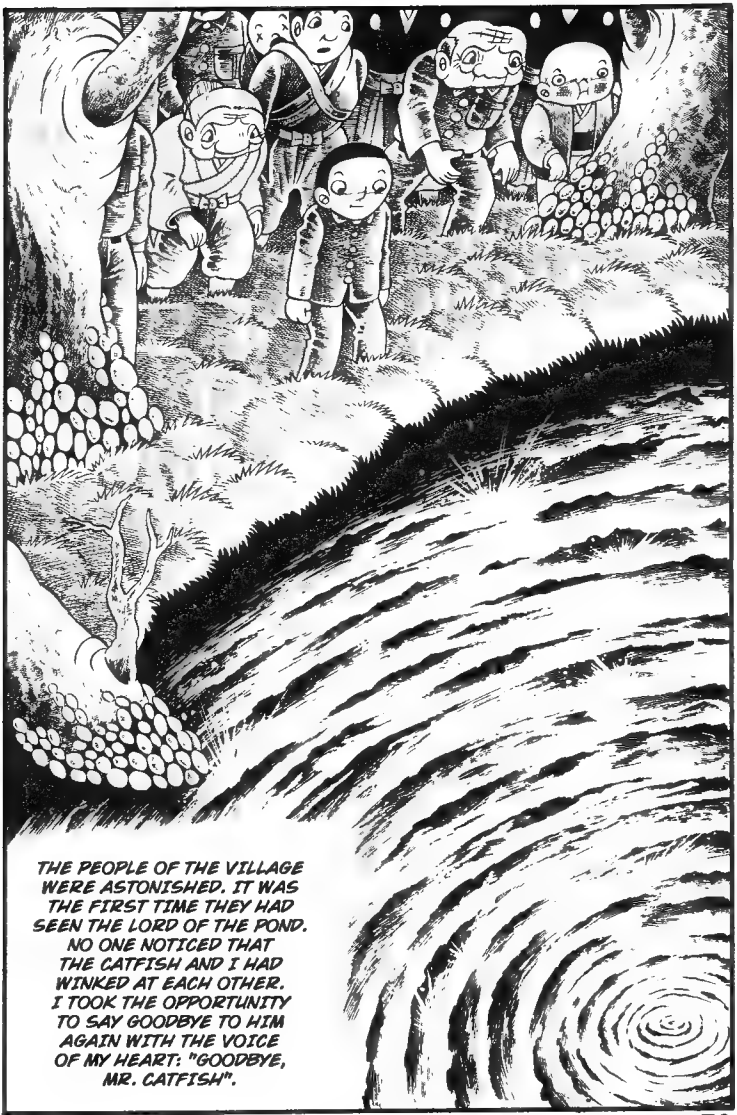

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE POND?

HAHAHAHA! DON'T MAKE THAT FACE! I HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED MY MISSION.


YOU HAVE BECOME STRONGER. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY TO SEE YOU GO...
GOODBYE, MR. CAT-FISH!
FARE-WELL.
ME TOO. BUT FISH AND CHILDREN CAN'T ALWAYS BE TOGETHER. AND YOU HAVE MANY FRIENDS NOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, FOR EVERY-THING.

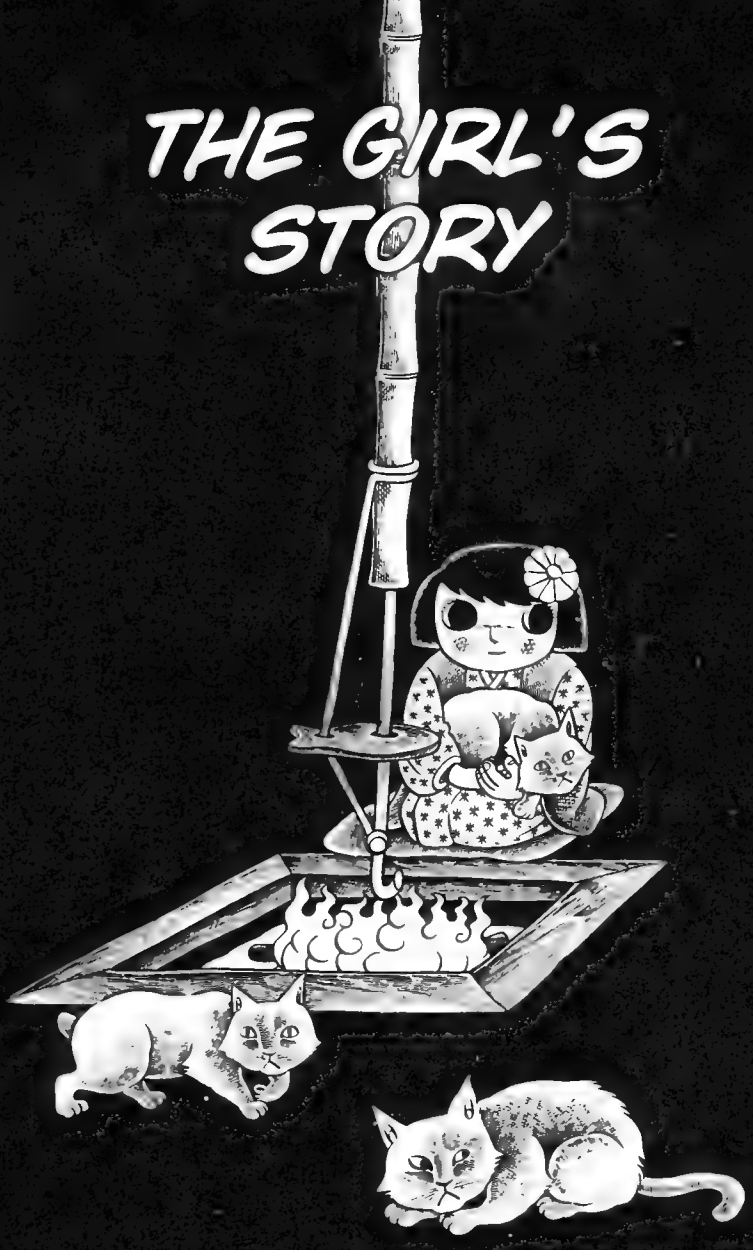

どんどこ
どん
どこ
どろろん
どん
AUTUMN CAME AND WITH IT THE CATFISH FESTIVAL THAT EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WAS WAITING FOR.
LOOK! DOWN THERE!
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT I'D SEE MY FRIEND AGAIN THAT DAY.
THANKS TO THE CATFISH GOD.
THIS YEAR WE HAVE ALL BEEN HEALTHY.

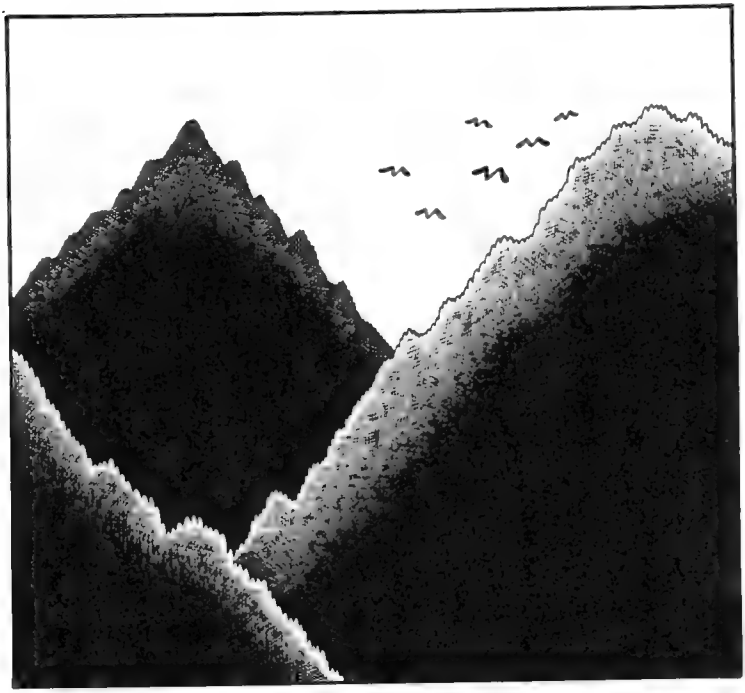
IT'S THE CATFISH OF THE LEGEND!
GRANDPA, HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S TRUE THAT HE EXISTS!
THE GOD OF OUR PEOPLE.
THE CAT-FISH GOD.
THE GOD.
OH ...
ぱちっ
ぱちっ
LET US PREY.


THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE WERE ASTONISHED. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD SEEN THE LORD OF THE POND. NO ONE NOTICED THAT THE CATFISH AND I HAD WINKED AT EACH OTHER. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM AGAIN WITH THE VOICE OF MY HEART: "GOODBYE, MR. CATFISH".

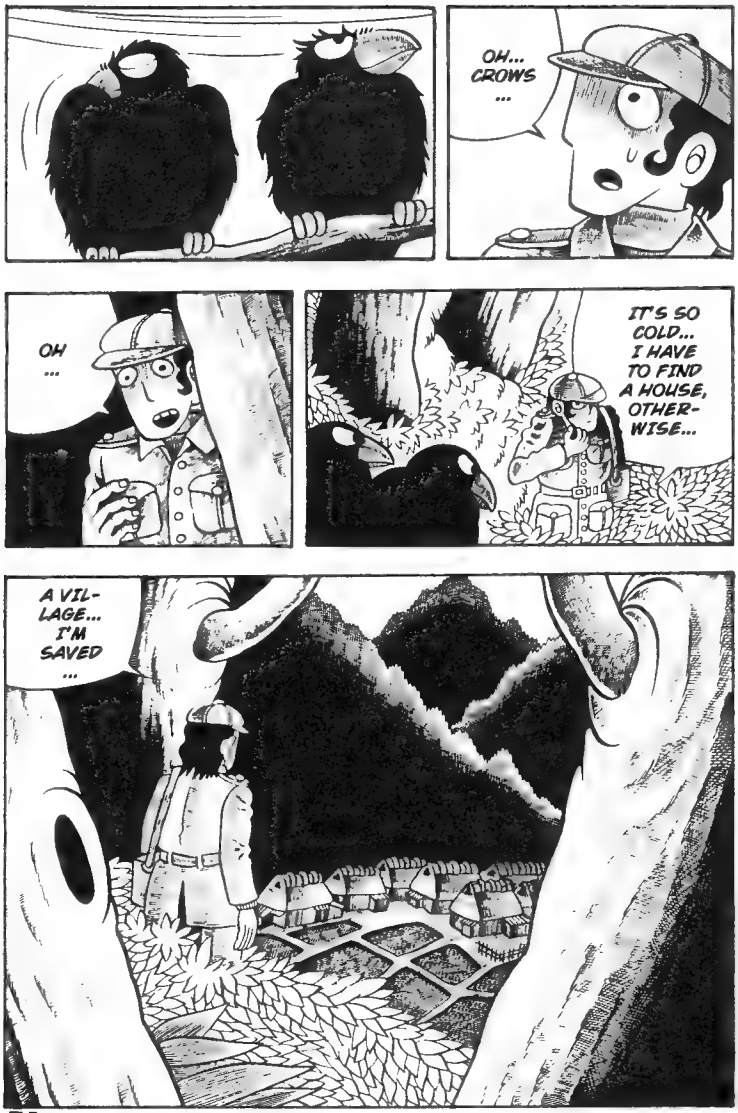
THE END

THE GIRL'S STORY





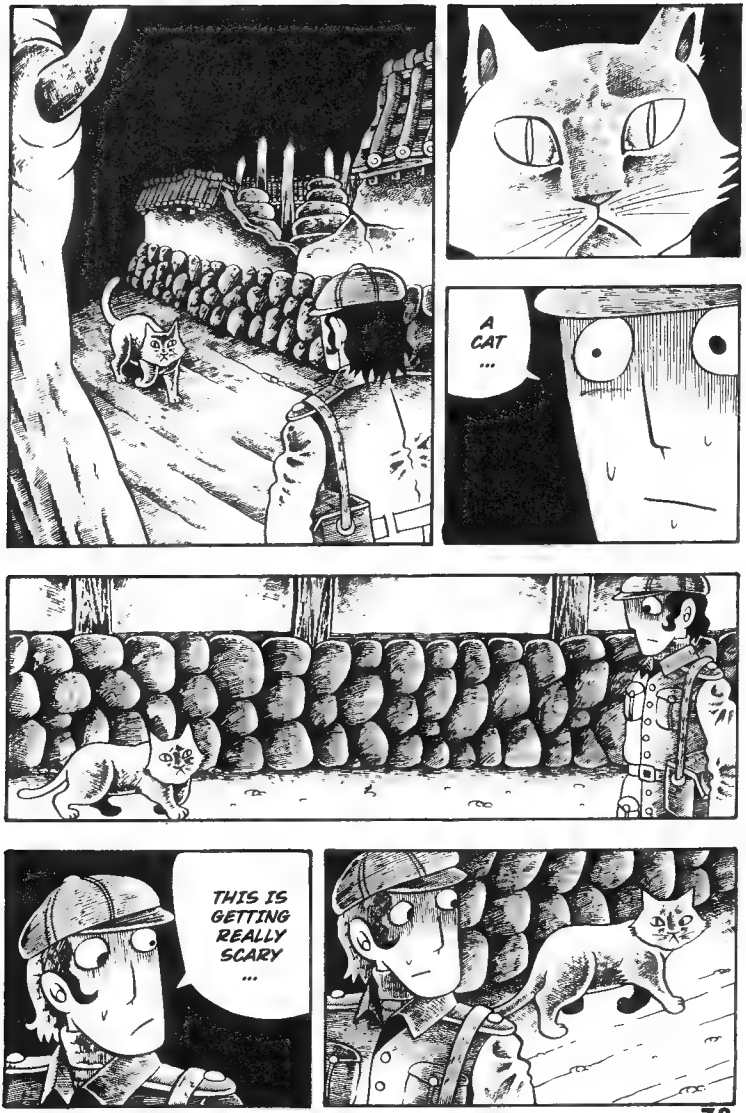
WHAT BAD LUCK... I GOT LOST AND IT WILL BE NIGHT SOON.
ガサ
ガサ
IF ONLY THERE WAS A HOUSE ...
ガサガサ
ガヴガヴガヴ
UAGH!


OH... CROWS ...
OH ...
IT'S SO COLD... I HAVE TO FIND A HOUSE, OTHER-WISE...
A VIL-LAGE... I'M SAVED ...

ALTHOUGH IT IS VERY SMALL, I COULD TAKE SOME NICE PICTURES HERE...

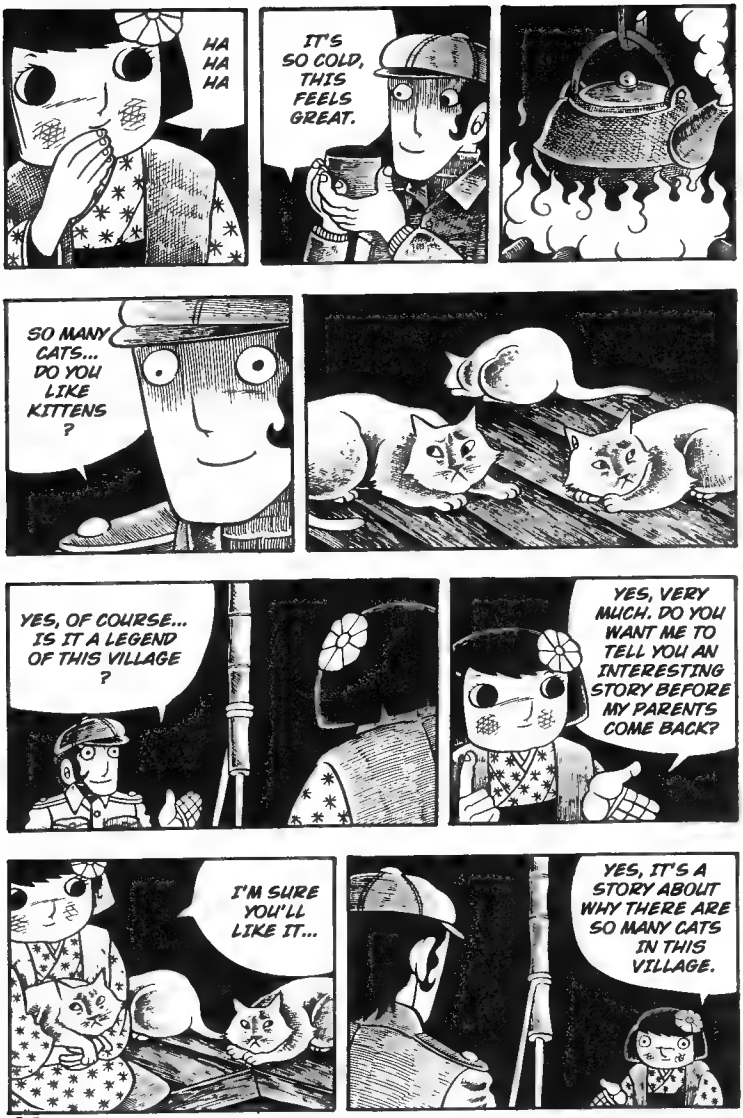
UHM ...

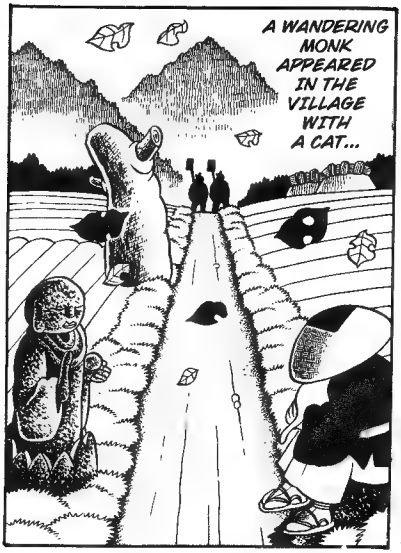
WE ARE NO-THING ...
POOR LITTLE THING... SO YOUNG...
A FUN-ERAL ...
I TAKE REFUGE IN THE BUDDHA...
くしょん
ふぁっ
ふ...
UGH!
IT'S ALREADY DARK. BUT I CAN'T FIND A PLACE TO STAY...

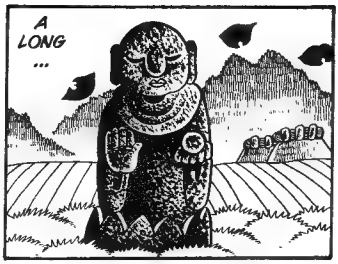

A CAT ...
THIS IS GETTING REALLY SCARY ...

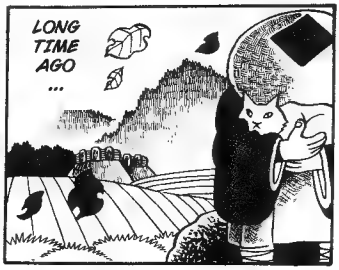
LET'S SEE...
IS ANYONE THERE ?
ひゃっ！
BAD CAT... DON'T SCARE THE VISITORS.
THE CAT FROM BEFORE ...

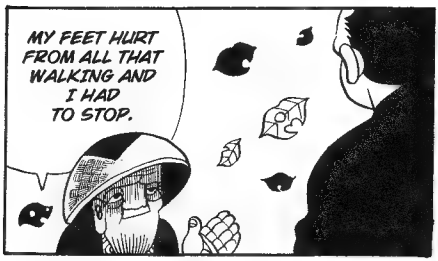
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU ?
I'M TAKING PICTURES OF OLD HOUSES AND PICTURESQUE VILLAGES.
.....
MY PARENTS ARE AT A FUNERAL. PLEASE COME IN.
TELL YOUR MOM OR DAD TO COME OUT AND I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO THEM.
STAND BY THE FIRE.
REALLY? WELL ...

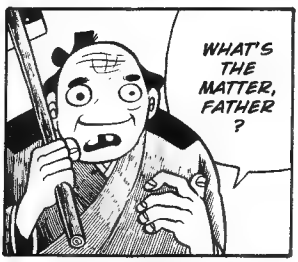

HA HA HA
IT'S SO COLD, THIS FEELS GREAT.
SO MANY CATS... DO YOU LIKE KITTENS ?
YES, OF COURSE... IS IT A LEGEND OF THIS VILLAGE ?
YES, VERY MUCH. DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU AN INTERESTING STORY BEFORE MY PARENTS COME BACK?
I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT...
YES, IT'S A STORY ABOUT WHY THERE ARE SO MANY CATS IN THIS VILLAGE.


A WANDERING MONK APPEARED IN THE VILLAGE WITH A CAT...


A LONG ...

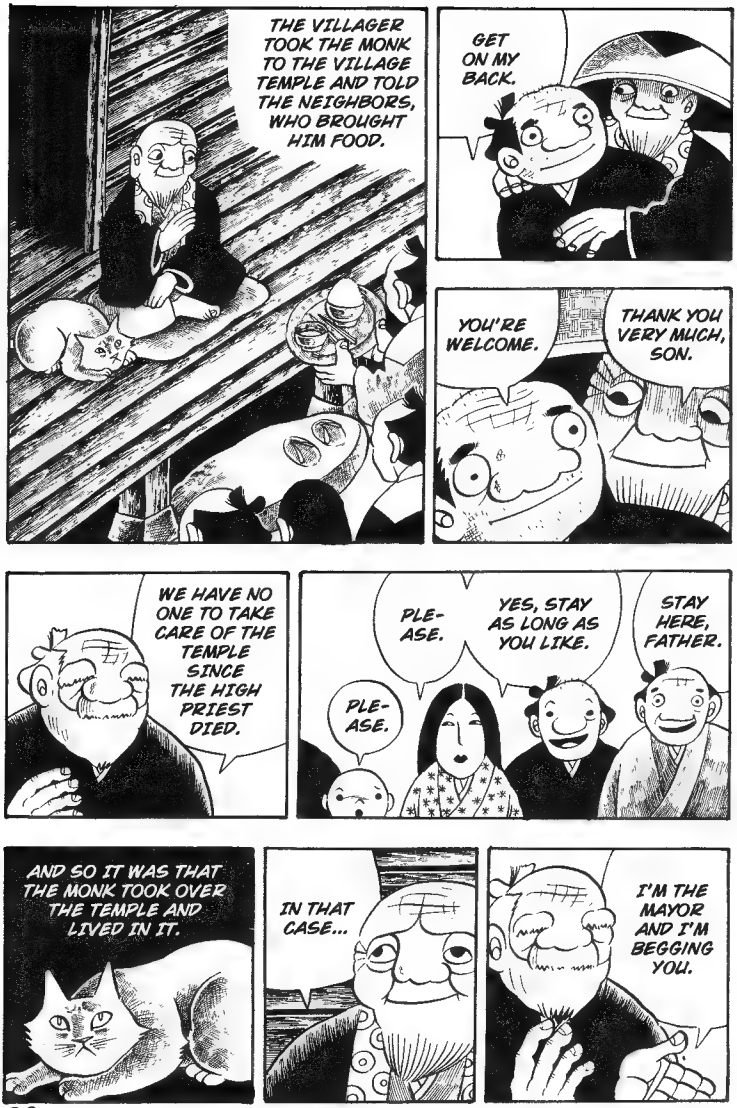

LONG TIME AGO ...

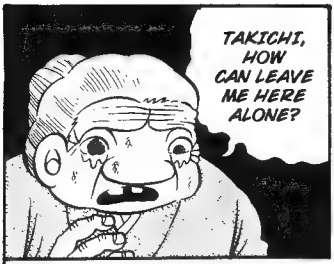

MY FEET HURT FROM ALL THAT WALKING AND I HAD TO STOP.

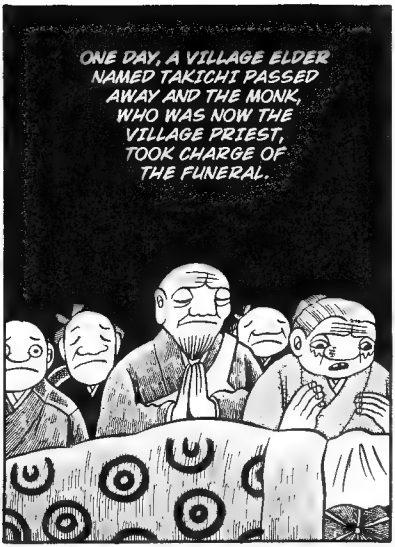

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FATHER ?

DON'T WORRY, FATHER.

I CAN'T WALK PROP-ERLY.


THE VILLAGER TOOK THE MONK TO THE VILLAGE TEMPLE AND TOLD THE NEIGHBORS, WHO BROUGHT HIM FOOD.
GET ON MY BACK.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SON.
WE HAVE NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF THE TEMPLE SINCE THE HIGH PRIEST DIED.
PLE-ASE.
YES, STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
STAY HERE, FATHER.
PLE-ASE.
AND SO IT WAS THAT THE MONK TOOK OVER THE TEMPLE AND LIVED IN IT.
IN THAT CASE...
I'M THE MAYOR AND I'M BEGGING YOU.


TAKICHI, HOW CAN LEAVE ME HERE ALONE?

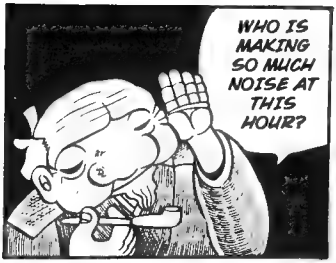

ONE DAY, A VILLAGE ELDER NAMED TAKICHI PASSED AWAY AND THE MONK, WHO WAS NOW THE VILLAGE PRIEST, TOOK CHARGE OF THE FUNERAL.

HOW LONELY SHE MUST BE ...
POOR LADY ...

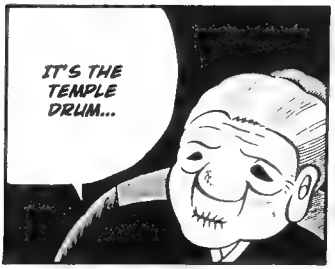
THE PRIEST DILIGENTLY PERFORMED ALL THE RITES FOR TAKICHI TO FIND PEACE.

YOU MUST BE STRONG, DONA HATSU.

PLEASE, FATHER, PRAY FOR MY TAKICHI TO REACH NIRVANA.


WHO IS MAKING SO MUCH NOISE AT THIS HOUR?

どんどん
どろろん
どん
THAT NIGHT, A VERY UN-PLEASANT NOISE WAS HEARD THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE.

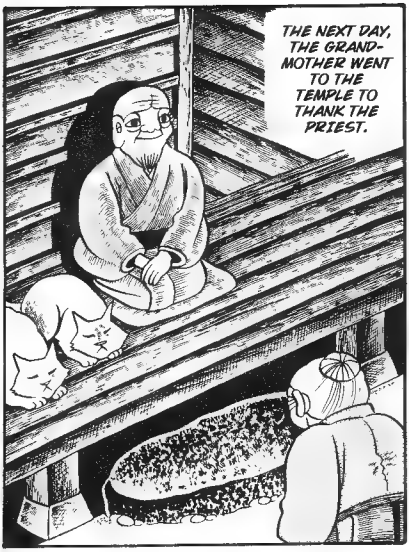

IT'S THE TEMPLE DRUM...

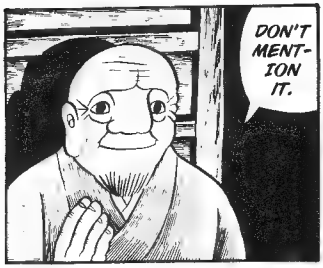
どんどん
どろろん
どん
THE DRUM DID NOT STOP ALL NIGHT LONG.

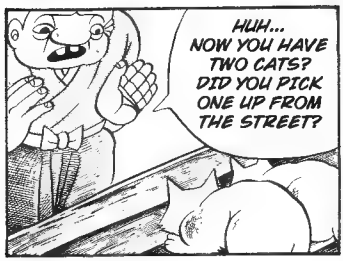
HE'S BEATING THE DRUM FOR POOR TAKICHI. PRAISE BE BUDDHA.

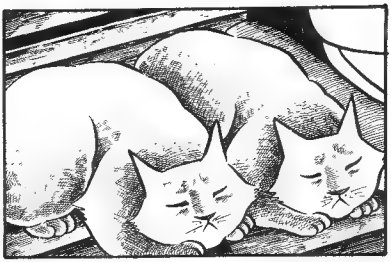
IT'S A SINISTER SOUND. IT'S SCARY...

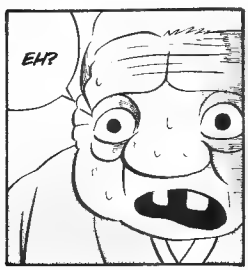
THANKS TO YOU, MY HUSBAND WILL SURELY HAVE REACHED NIRVANA BY NOW.

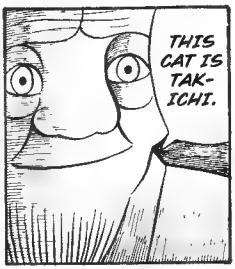

THE NEXT DAY, THE GRAND-MOTHER WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO THANK THE PRIEST.

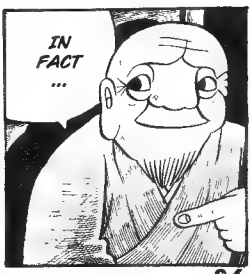

DON'T MENT-ION IT.


HUH... NOW YOU HAVE TWO CATS? DID YOU PICK ONE UP FROM THE STREET?




EH?


THIS CAT IS TAK-ICHI.


IN FACT ...

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どろろんどん
THAT CAT? MY TAKICHI? DON'T MAKE SUCH JOKES ...
IT'S NO JOKE. THANKS TO THE POWER OF MY PRAYER, TAKICHI HAS BEEN REINCARNATED AS A CAT.
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT I CAN TURN YOU INTO A CAT DURING EVERY NIGHT AS WELL? YOU COULD TALK TO YOUR HUSBAND.
ARE YOU REALLY NOT LYING TO ME ?
IF ONLY WHAT YOU SAY WERE POSSIBLE ...

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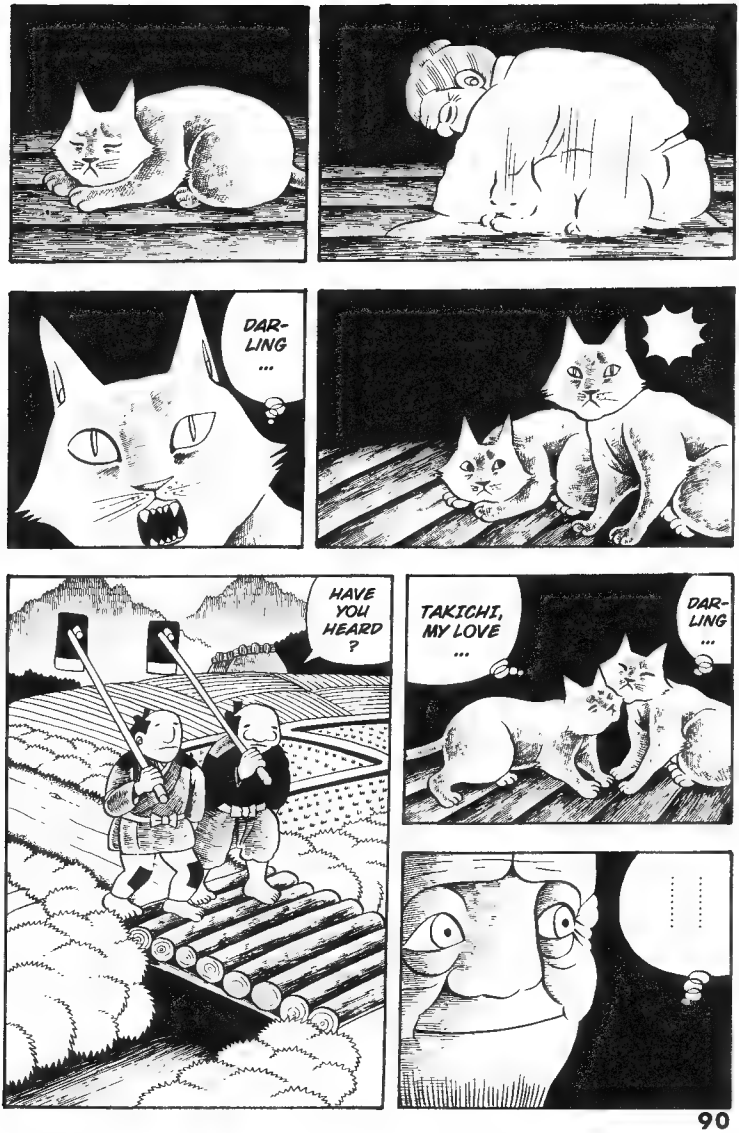
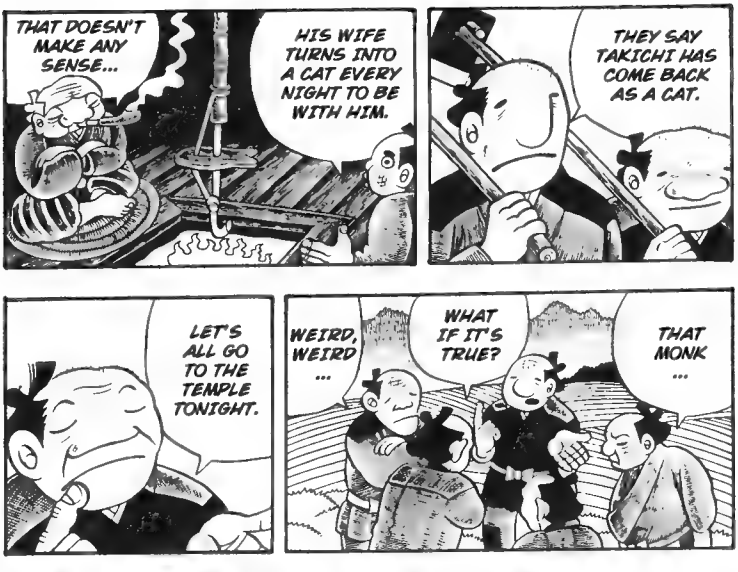
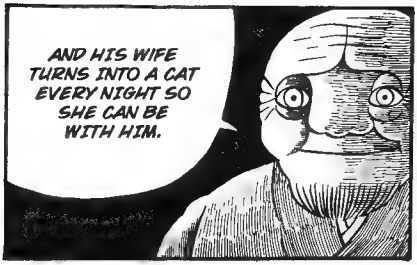
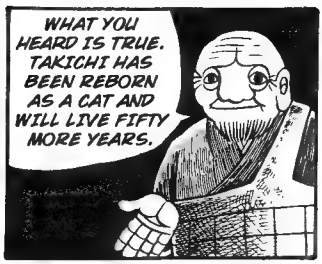
どどん

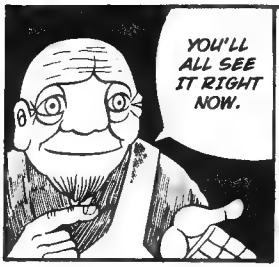
NAMU HONYA SOWAKA JUGEMU JUGEMU JUGEMU...
NAMU HONHYA SOWAKA ...

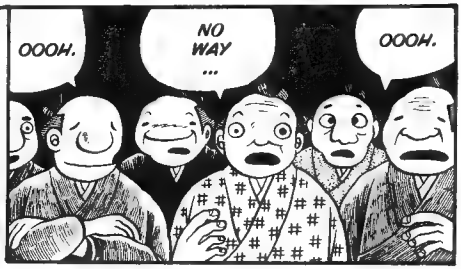

DAR-
LING
...
HAVE
YOU
HEARD
?
TAKICHI,
MY LOVE
...
DAR-
LING
...
.....

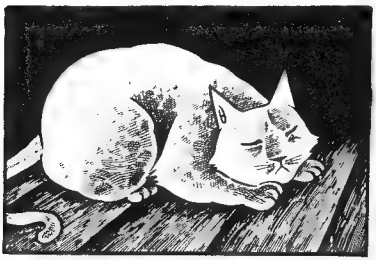

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
HIS WIFE TURNS INTO A CAT EVERY NIGHT TO BE WITH HIM.
THEY SAY TAKICHI HAS COME BACK AS A CAT.
LET'S ALL GO TO THE TEMPLE TONIGHT.
WEIRD, WEIRD ...
WHAT IF IT'S TRUE?
THAT MONK ...

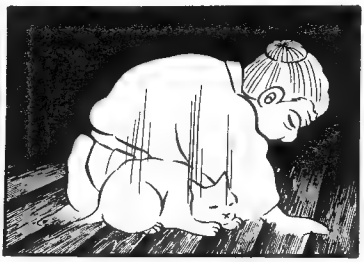

AND HIS WIFE TURNS INTO A CAT EVERY NIGHT SO SHE CAN BE WITH HIM.

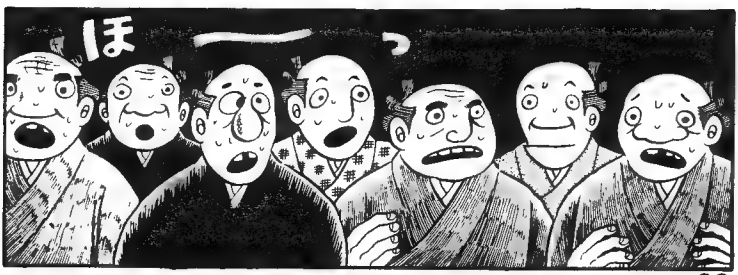

WHAT YOU HEARD IS TRUE. TAKICHI HAS BEEN REBORN AS A CAT AND WILL LIVE FIFTY MORE YEARS.


YOU'LL ALL SEE IT RIGHT NOW.


OOOH.
NO WAY ...
OOOH.



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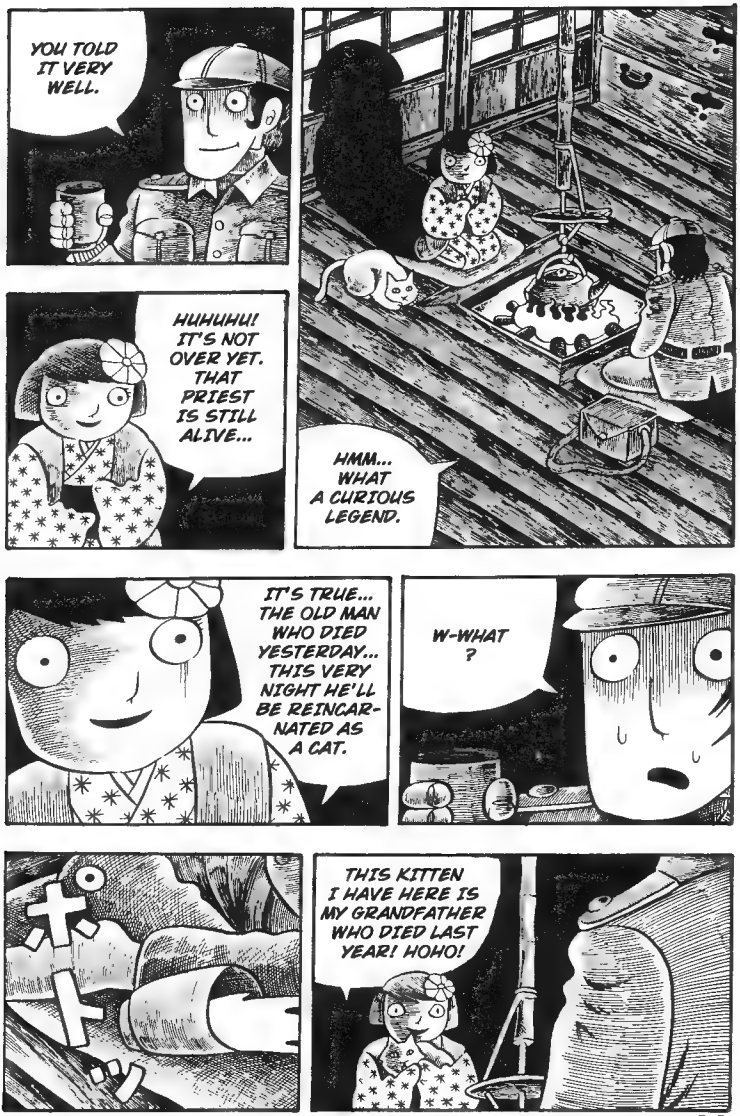
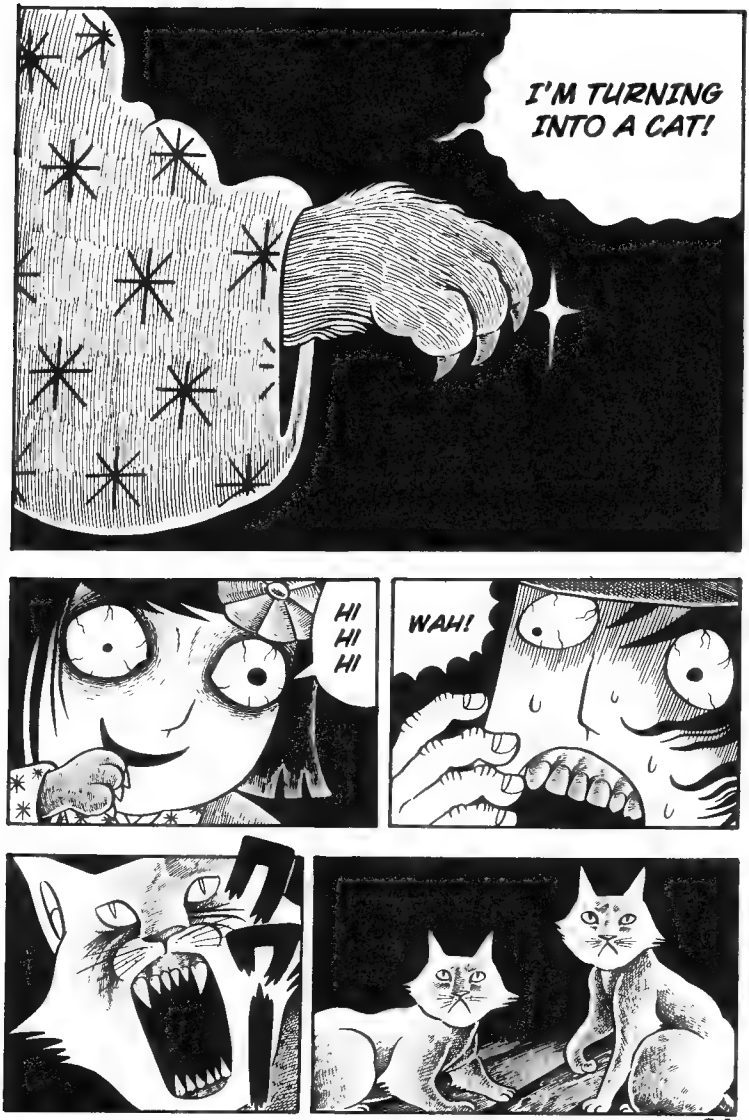
YES, MY LOVE ...
YOU'RE HERE...
THIS PRIEST IS A BUDDHA IN THE FLESH ...
A MIR-ACLE...
IT'S IN-CREDIBLE ...
LATER, THERE WERE MANY MORE WHO DIED AND BECAME A CAT AND MANY OTHERS WHO BECOME A CAT AT NIGHT AS WELL.
.....

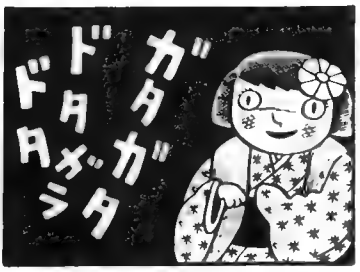

YOU TOLD IT VERY WELL.
HMM... WHAT A CURIOUS LEGEND.
HUHUHU! IT'S NOT OVER YET. THAT PRIEST IS STILL ALIVE...
IT'S TRUE... THE OLD MAN WHO DIED YESTERDAY... THIS VERY NIGHT HE'LL BE REINCARNATED AS A CAT.
W-WHAT ?
THIS KITTEN I HAVE HERE IS MY GRANDFATHER WHO DIED LAST YEAR! HOHO!

ENOUGH... YOU'RE MESSING WITH ME ...
ペチャ ペチャ
LOOK, THAT'S MY GRAND-MA OVER THERE.
THE CATS YOU HAVE SEEN ARE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WHO HAVE TRANSFORMED INTO CATS TO WEL-COME YOU.
EEK!
フギャー
DON'T YOU SEE ?
RIGHT NOW ...
I'LL JOIN THEM TOO...


I'M TURNING INTO A CAT!
HI HI HI
WAH!

ARGH !!
MEOW ...

SOME-BODY HELP ME!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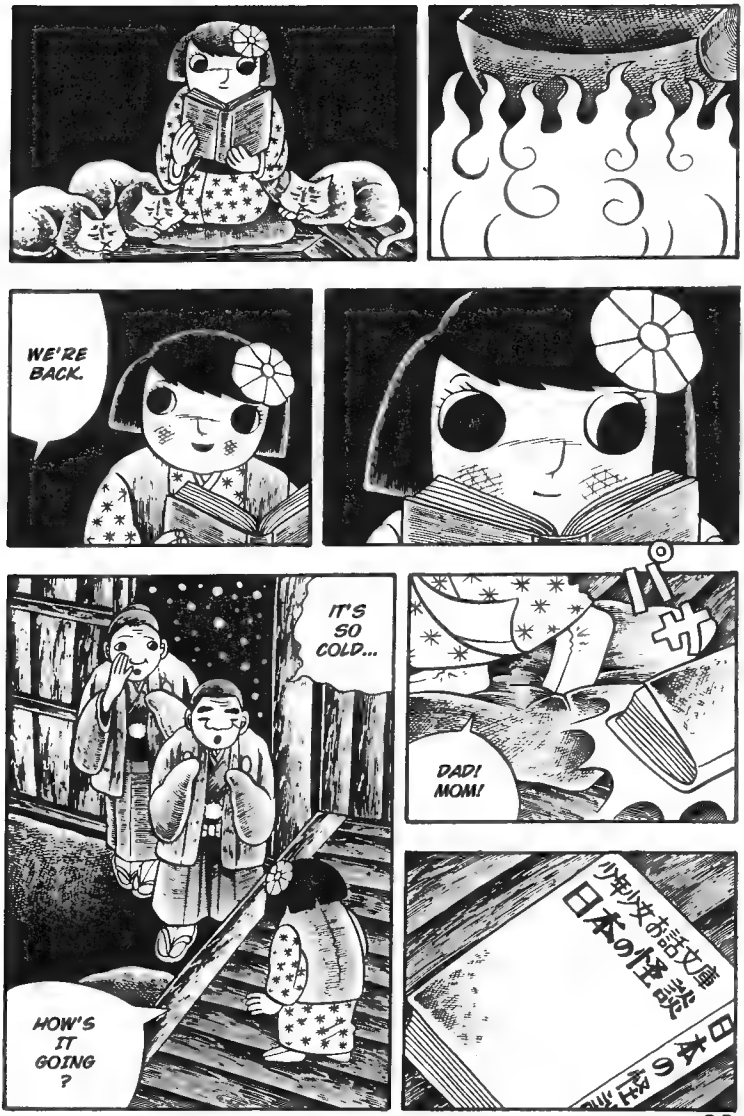
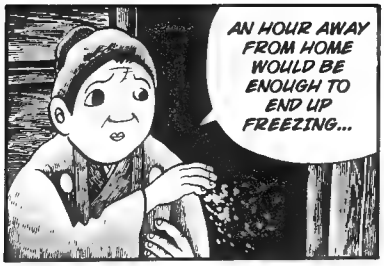

WE'RE BACK.
IT'S SO COLD...
HOW'S IT GOING?
DAD! MOM!
日本の怪談
少年少女お話文庫
日本の怪談

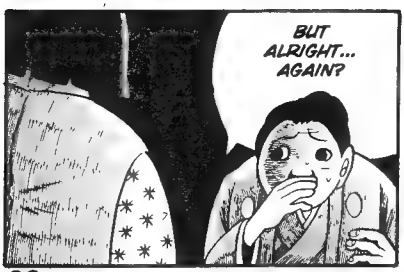

AN HOUR AWAY FROM HOME WOULD BE ENOUGH TO END UP FREEZING...

THEY WEREN'T FINISHED YET, BUT WITH THIS BLIZZARD ...

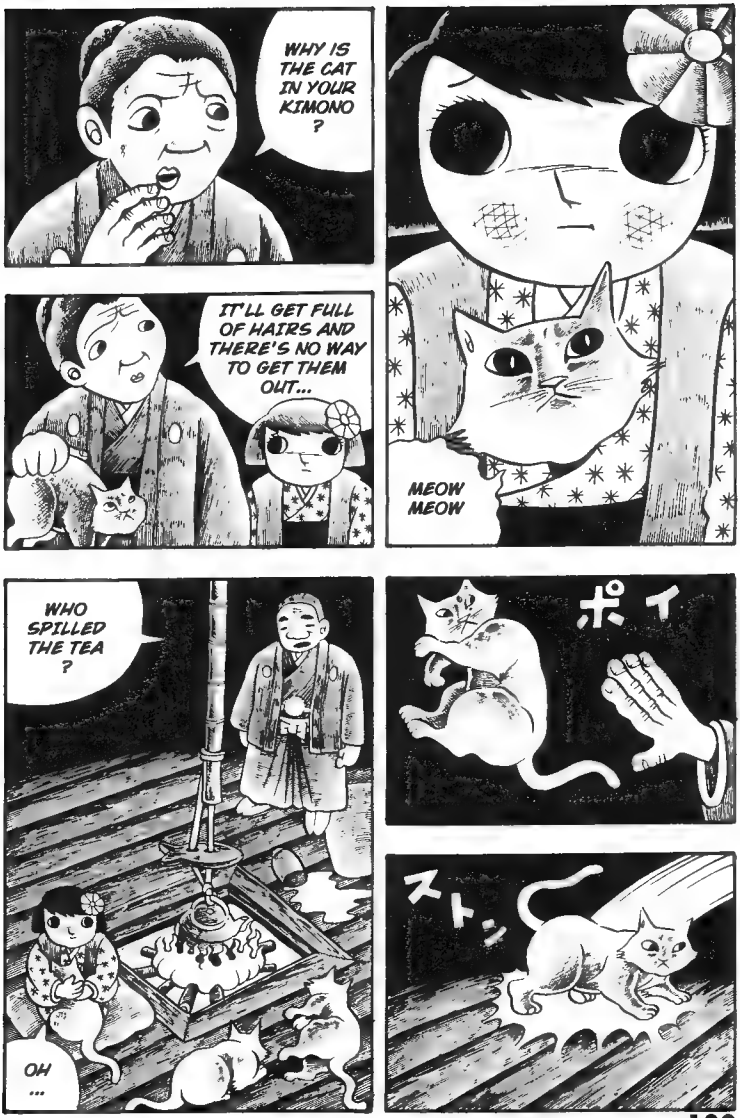
I'VE BEEN READING.

TOMORROW WILL BE A NICE DAY.
HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD ?

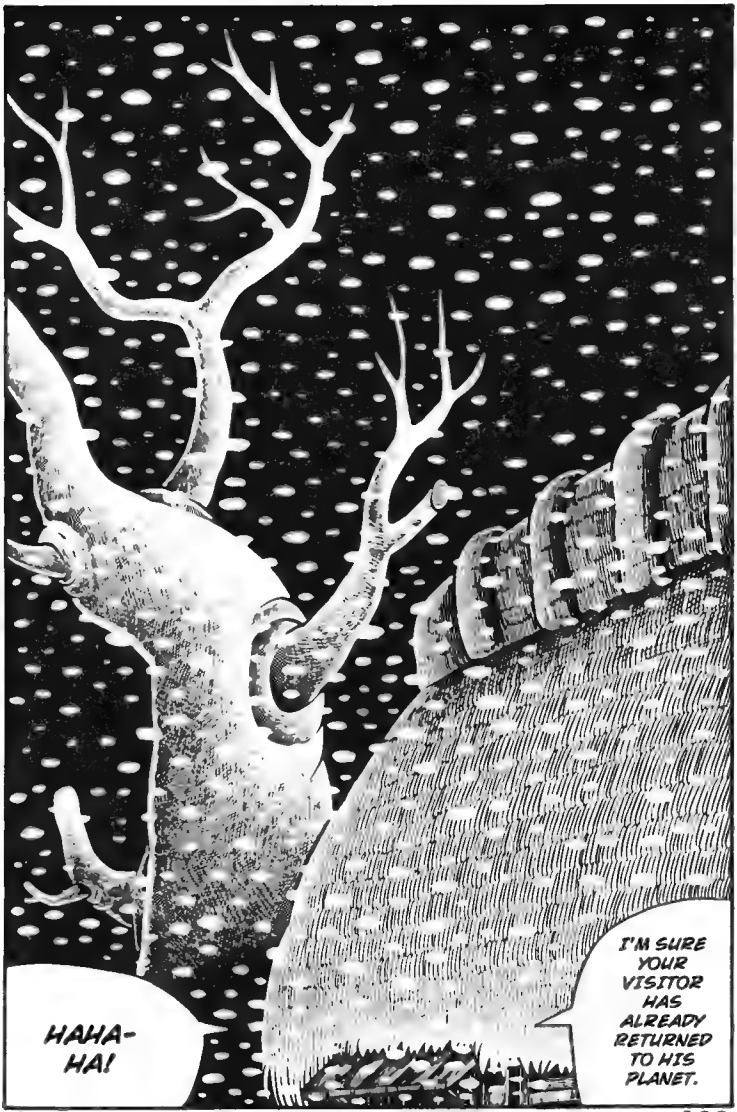
SCARY STORIES, RIGHT?


BUT ALRIGHT... AGAIN?

IT'S VERY GOOD FOR YOU TO READ... BUT SO MANY HORROR STORIES ...


WHY IS THE CAT IN YOUR KIMONO ?
MEOW MEOW
IT'LL GET FULL OF HAIRS AND THERE'S NO WAY TO GET THEM OUT...
ポイ
WHO SPILLED THE TEA ?
ストン
OH ...

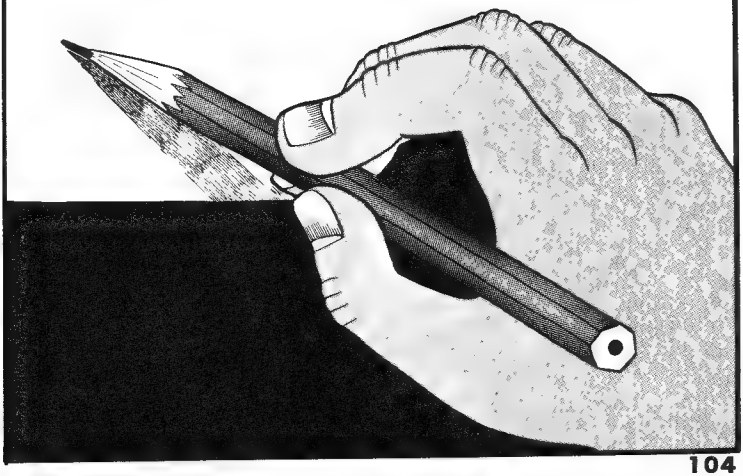
FROM A DISTANT PLANET IN HIS FLYING SAUCER.
A VERY STRANGE GENTLEMAN CAME...
HAHAHA! THERE YOU GO WITH YOUR STORIES.
HE WAS THE PRINCE OF HIS PLANET.
LOOK HOW MUCH THIS GIRL LIKES TO TELL STORIES!
HE HAD GREEN EYES, HAIR AND SKIN.
A REALLY BEAUTIFUL GREEN.
ビューン
LET'S CLOSE UP WELL.

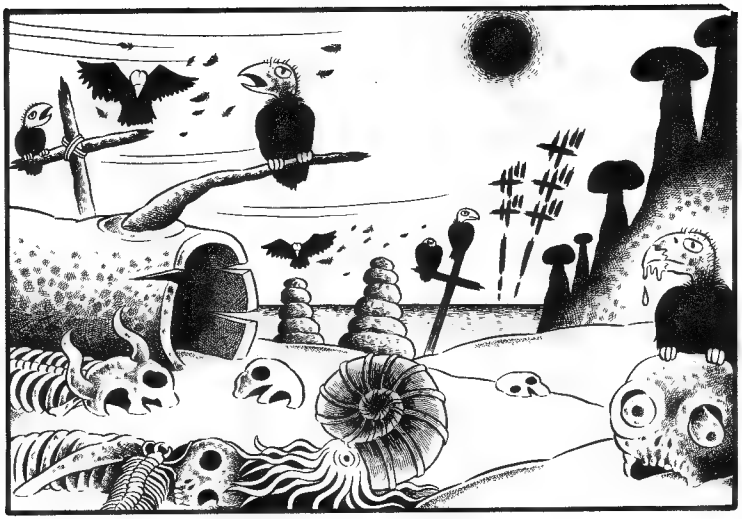

HAHA-HA!
I'M SURE YOUR VISITOR HAS ALREADY RETURNED TO HIS PLANET.

THE END

ISLAND OF
COLORS

TO WHOEVER READS THIS TEXT:
I KNOW IT IS ASKING TOO MUCH,
BUT SINCE THIS LETTER HAS
REACHED YOUR HANDS, I BEG
YOU TO READ IT TO THE END.
I SWEAR IT IS NOT A JOKE
OR AN INVENTION, EVERYTHING
I TELL IN IT IS TRUE.
YOU MAY THINK I'M CRAZY,
BUT I SWEAR TO GOD THAT
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.
I FOUND MYSELF TRAPPED
ON A TERRIFYING ISLAND.





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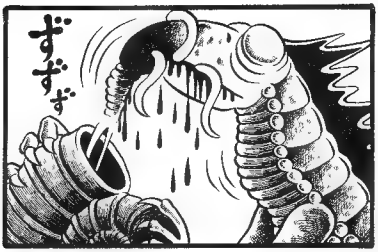
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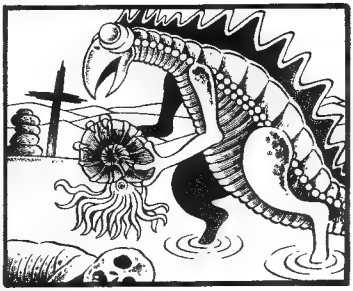
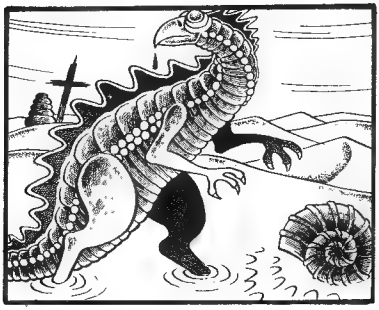
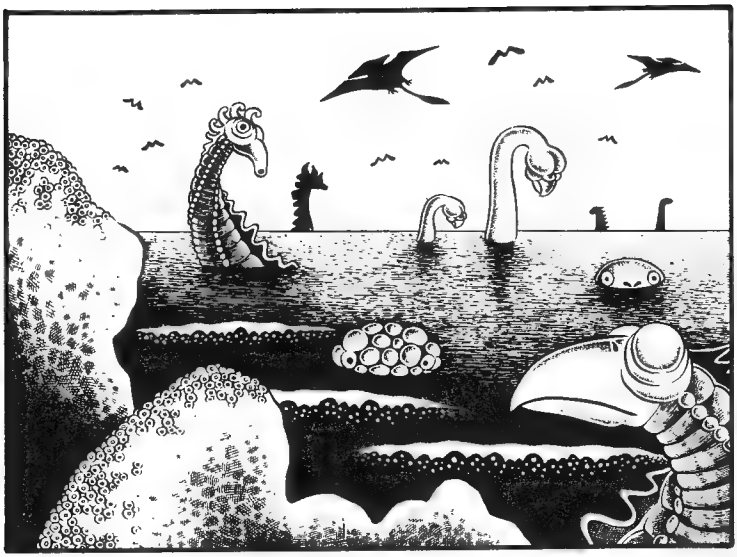
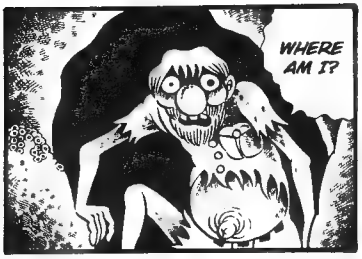
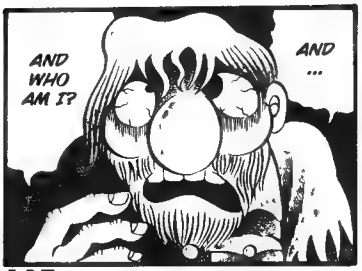




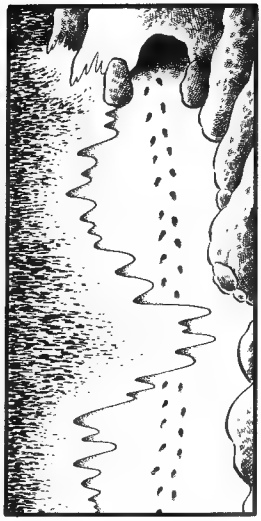


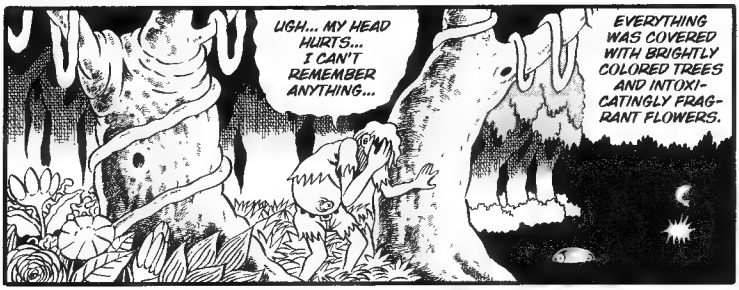

WHERE AM I?

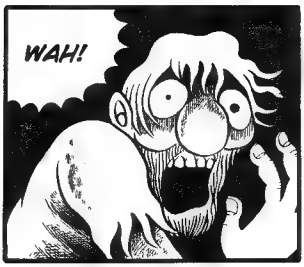

AND WHO AM I?
AND ...

WHEN I REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS, I WAS IN A DARK CAVE ON A CLIFF BEATEN BY WAVES.

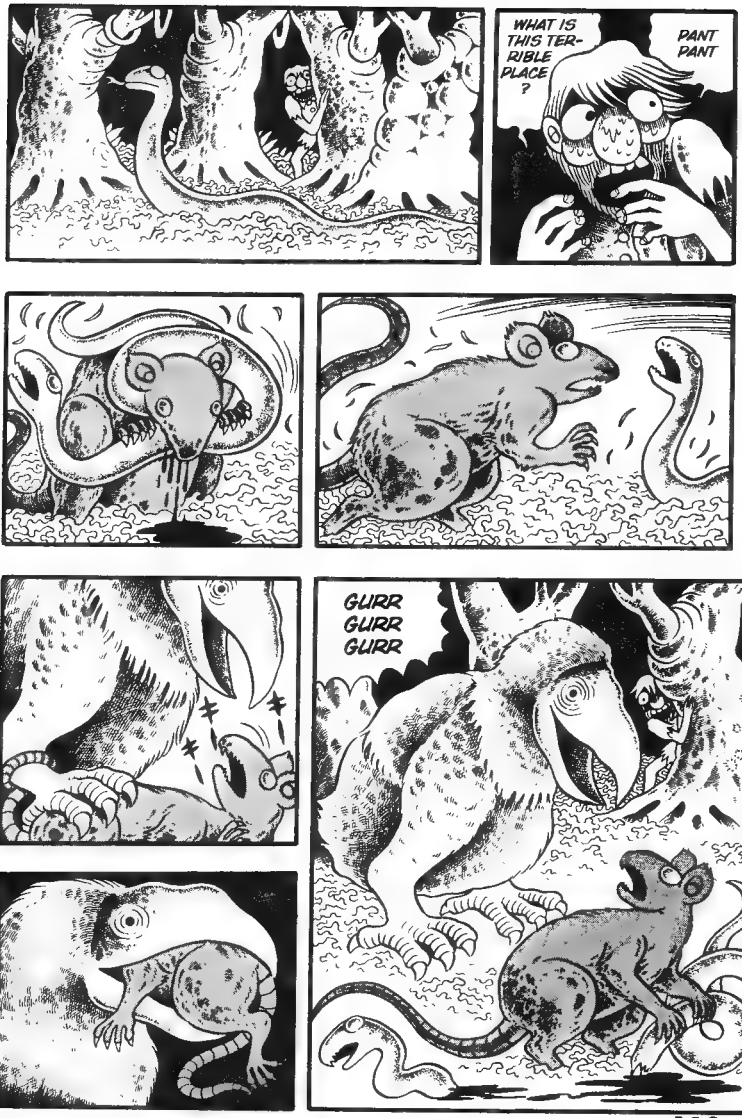
I SOON REALIZED THAT I WAS ON AN ISLAND... HUGE AND, APPARENTLY, UNINHABITED ...




UGH... MY HEAD HURTS... I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
EVERYTHING WAS COVERED WITH BRIGHTLY COLORED TREES AND INTOXICATINGLY FRAGRANT FLOWERS.


WAH!

IT'S THIS SMELL... I CAN'T THINK...


WHAT IS THIS TERRIBLE PLACE ?
PANT PANT
GURR GURR GURR

A SPRING... DRINKING WATER...
THIS MUST BE HELL.
UH ...
ポチャ
HMM ...
どんどろ どんどろ どろろん どろろん
WAH!

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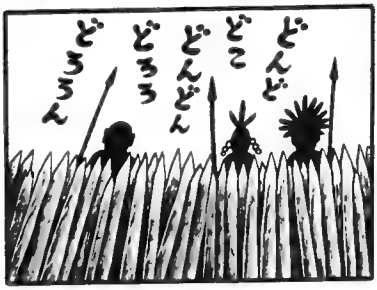
DOZENS OF CORPSES WERE SCATTERED IN FRONT OF THOSE HUGE DOORS, ALL WEARING MASKS.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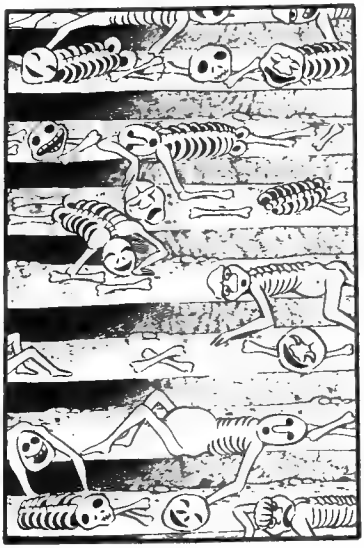
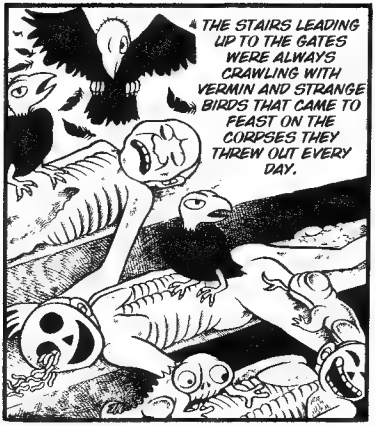
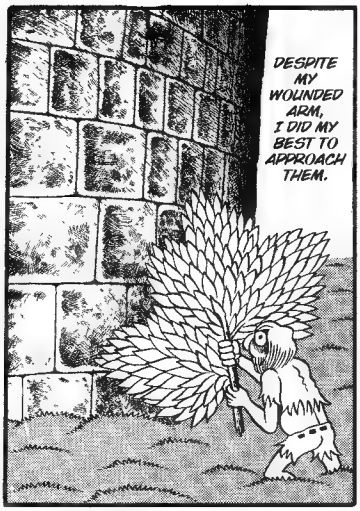


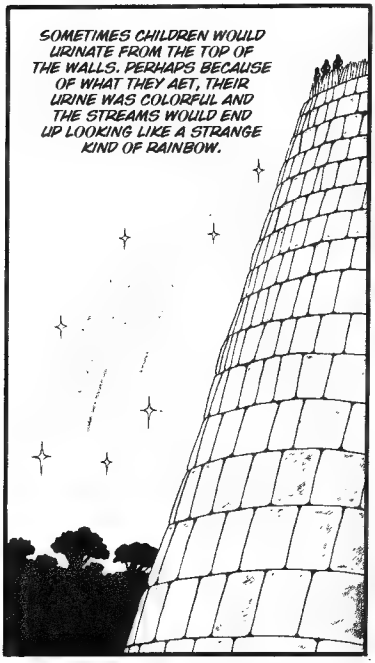
OH... PEOPLE... I'M SAVED!

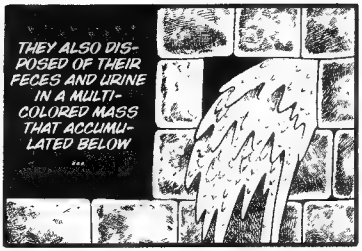
TOKOTON TONYARE TONYARE NA.
HEY! HELP ME!
UJI UJI MUKI MUKI.
PERO PERO NAME NAME KOCHO BAIBAI.
I'M SAVED! HAHA!
UGH!
UWAA!

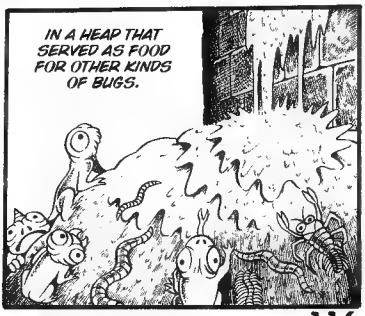
シトシト
I HAD TO RESIGN MYSELF TO BEING A HOMELESS OUTCAST.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND ME...
THOSE MEN CONSIDERED ME AN ENEMY.
AH, MY WOUND IS INFECTED.
MAGGOTS!
BUT I WANTED TO SEE THEM AGAIN.

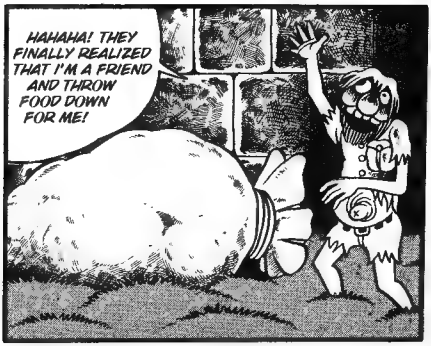

THE STAIRS LEADING UP TO THE GATES WERE ALWAYS CRAWLING WITH VERMIN AND STRANGE BIRDS THAT CAME TO FEAST ON THE CORPSES THEY THREW OUT EVERY DAY.

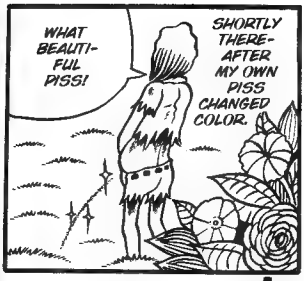

DESPITE MY WOUNDED ARM, I DID MY BEST TO APPROACH THEM.

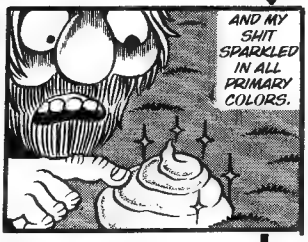

SOMETIMES CHILDREN WOULD URINATE FROM THE TOP OF THE WALLS. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY AET, THEIR URINE WAS COLORFUL AND THE STREAMS WOULD END UP LOOKING LIKE A STRANGE KIND OF RAINBOW.

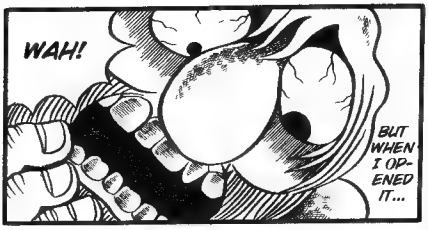

THEY ALSO DISPOSED OF THEIR FECES AND URINE IN A MULTI-COLORED MASS THAT ACCUMULATED BELOW ...

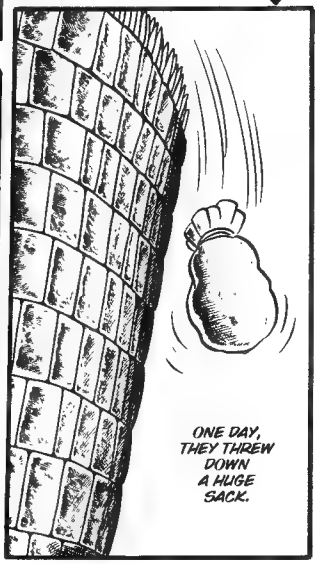

IN A HEAP THAT SERVED AS FOOD FOR OTHER KINDS OF BUGS.


HAHAHA! THEY FINALLY REALIZED THAT I'M A FRIEND AND THROW FOOD DOWN FOR ME!

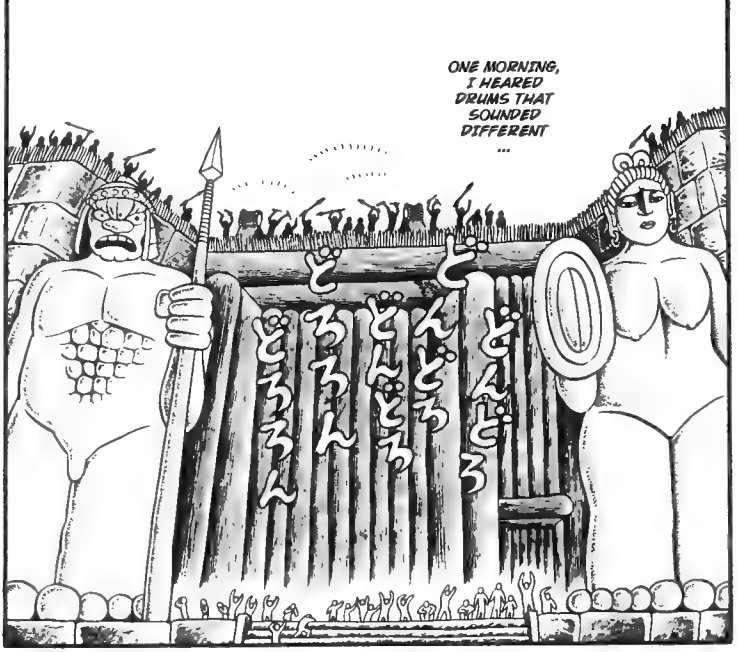

WHAT BEAUTIFUL PISS!
SHORTLY THEREAFTER MY OWN PISS CHANGED COLOR.


AND MY SHIT SPARKLED IN ALL PRIMARY COLORS.


WAH!
BUT WHEN I OPENED IT...


ONE DAY, THEY THREW DOWN A HUGE SACK.

IT WASN'T FOOD BUT COUNTLESS CORPSES OF TERRIBLY DEFORMED BABIES.


ONE MORNING, I HEARED DRUMS THAT SOUNDED DIFFERENT ...
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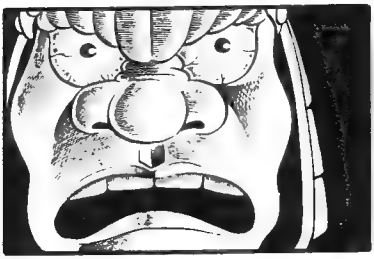
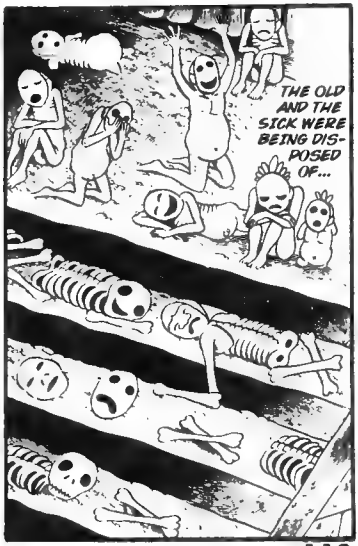
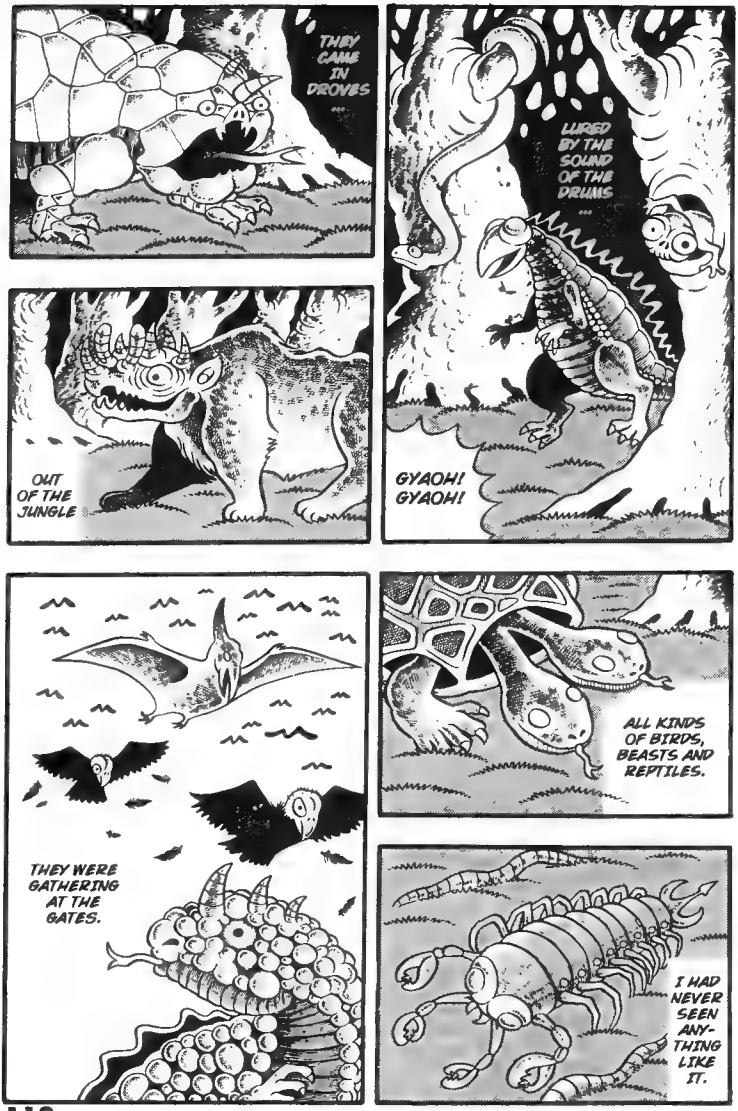
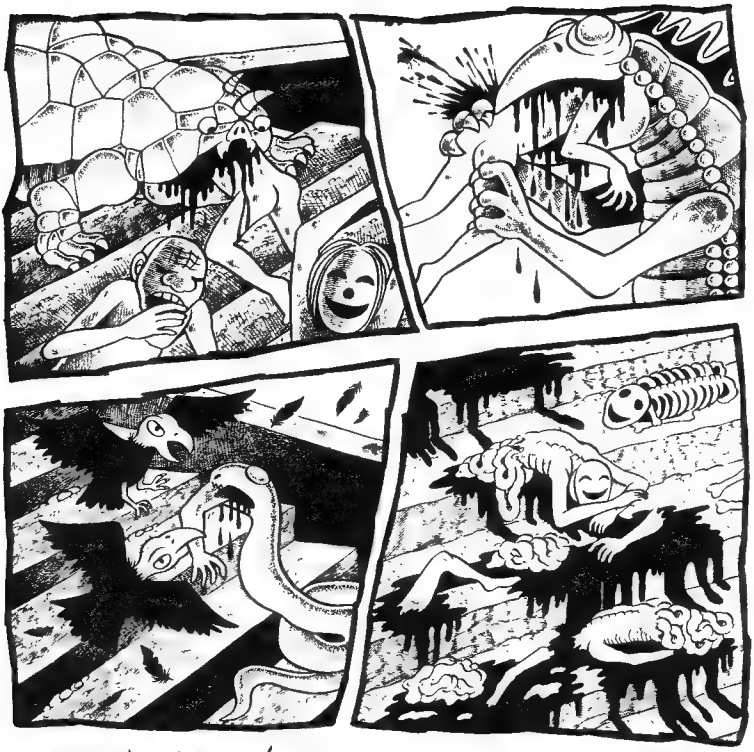
どんどろ
どろろん
どろろん

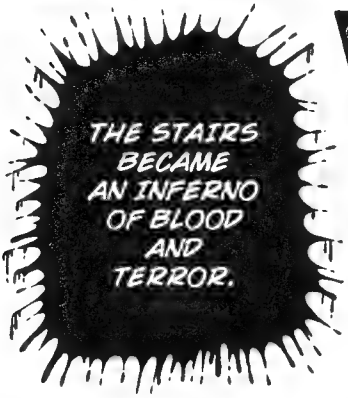


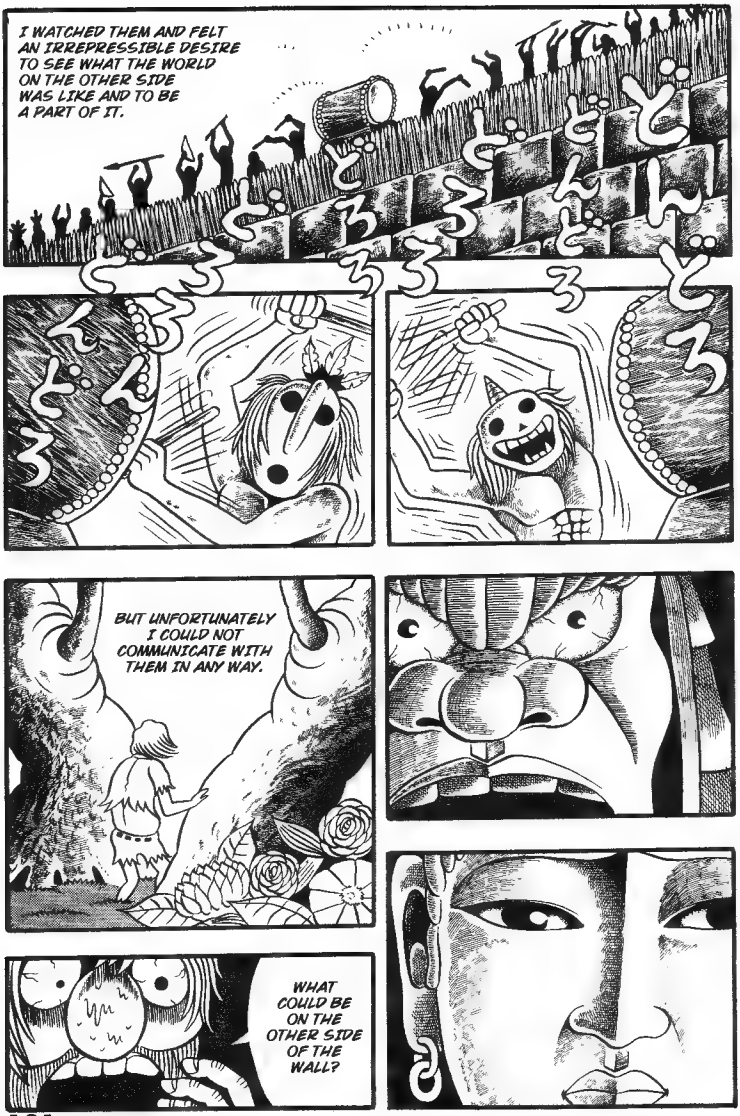
BY THE DOZENS, TO THE STAIRS UNDER THE GATE.

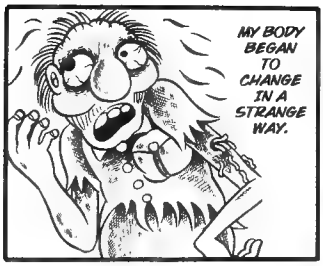

THE OLD AND THE SICK WERE BEING DISPOSED OF...

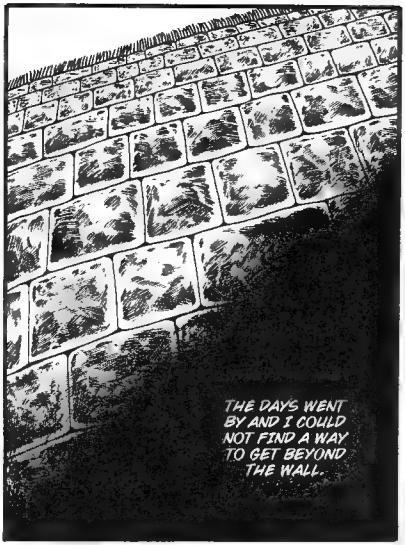

THEY CAME IN DROVES ...
LURED BY THE SOUND OF THE DRUMS ...
OUT OF THE JUNGLE
GYAOH! GYAOH!
ALL KINDS OF BIRDS, BEASTS AND REPTILES.
THEY WERE GATHERING AT THE GATES.
I HAD NEVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE IT.

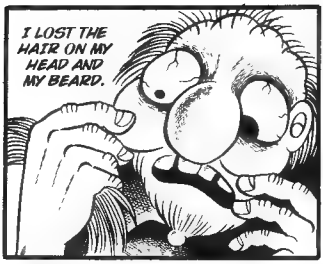



THE STAIRS BECAME AN INFERNO OF BLOOD AND TERROR.

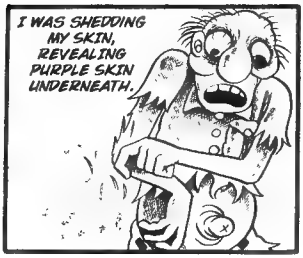

I WATCHED THEM AND FELT AN IRREPRESSIBLE DESIRE TO SEE WHAT THE WORLD ON THE OTHER SIDE WAS LIKE AND TO BE A PART OF IT.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY I COULD NOT COMMUNICATE WITH THEM IN ANY WAY.
WHAT COULD BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL?

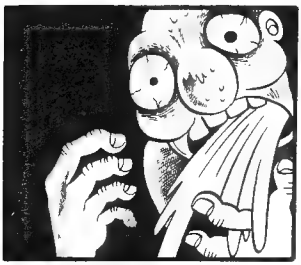

MY BODY BEGAN TO CHANGE IN A STRANGE WAY.

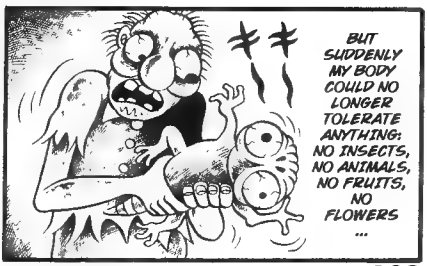

THE DAYS WENT BY AND I COULD NOT FIND A WAY TO GET BEYOND THE WALL.


I LOST THE HAIR ON MY HEAD AND MY BEARD.

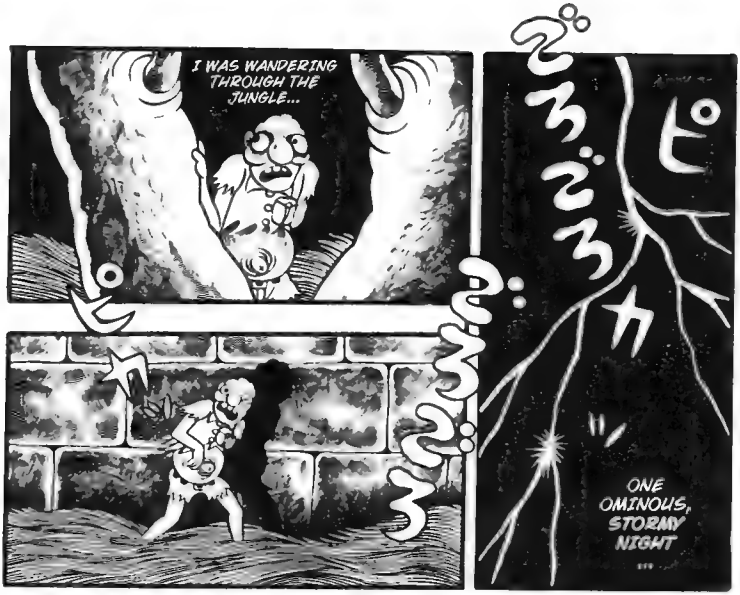
UP UNTIL THEN, I HAD EATEN EVERYTHING, ANYTHING I COULD FIND.


I WAS SHEDDING MY SKIN, REVEALING PURPLE SKIN UNDERNEATH.




BUT SUDDENLY MY BODY COULD NO LONGER TOLERATE ANYTHING: NO INSECTS, NO ANIMALS, NO FRUITS, NO FLOWERS ...

PANT PANT
PANT PANT
I WAS GETTING WEAKER AND WEAKER.
I BECAME SO HUNGRY THAT I TRIED TO GNAW ON MY OWN ARM.
THE INFECTION IN MY ARM WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE BONE.
IT BECAME GANGRENOUS AND FELL OFF.
ガ-ガ: っっ


I WAS WANDERING THROUGH THE JUNGLE...
ピ
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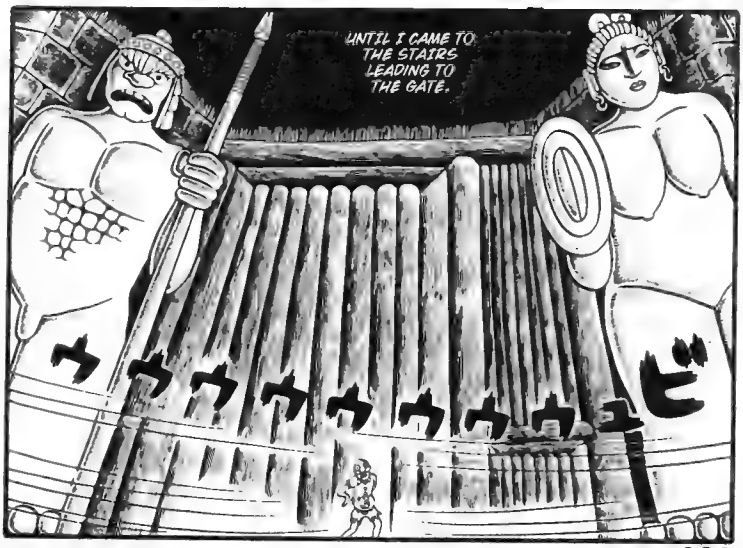
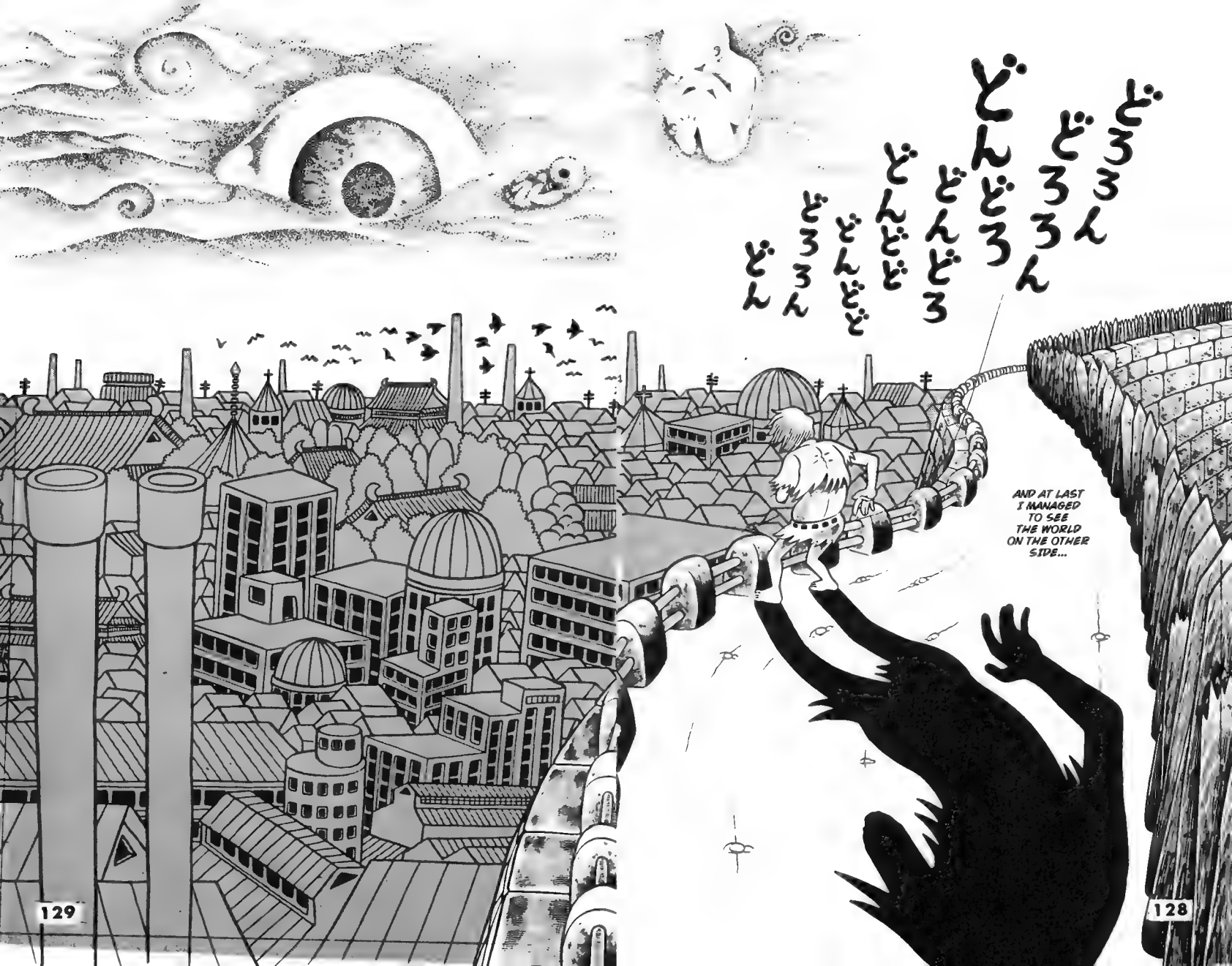
ONE OMINOUS, STORMY NIGHT...
ろろろろ?


UNTIL I CAME TO THE STAIRS LEADING TO THE GATE.
ウウウウウウウウウビ

ヒカッ
ごろごろ
ごろごろ
ごろごろ
NOM NOM
NOM NOM
HARGH !!

DO YOU... DO YOU SPEAK MY LANGUAGE ?
SHH... SILENCE ...
YAAA-GH!
ピカ
ウウウュヒ
AND SO THEY'VE THROWN ME ON THE STAIRS.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS ISLAND IS POISON-OUS AND I'VE FALLEN ILL.
WERE YOU ALSO SHIP-WRECKED ON THIS ISLAND LIKE ME?
ピカ
I DIS-COVERED A SECRET PASSAGE... I'LL TELL YOU WHERE IT IS ...
HOW DID YOU GET BEYOND THE WALL ?

THEY KNOW YOU COME FROM OUTSIDE... THEY CALL YOU... "THE MAN FROM THE SEA"...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE AMONG THEM EVEN IF YOU DON'T SPEAK THEIR LANGU-AGE.
IF YOU PUT ON A MASK ...
I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM! I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! "THE MAN FROM THE SEA"? BUT FROM WHERE ?
DO THEY KNOW WHERE I COME FROM?
ガックリ
"THE MAN FROM THE SEA"...
WHEN IT BECAME DAY-LIGHT, I FOUND THE SECRET PASSAGE AND MANAGED TO GET INSIDE.
AN-SWER ME!
I PUT ON A MASK AS HE HAD INSTRUCTED ME.
HE WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING MORE.
HE'S DEAD ...
ウウウ
エ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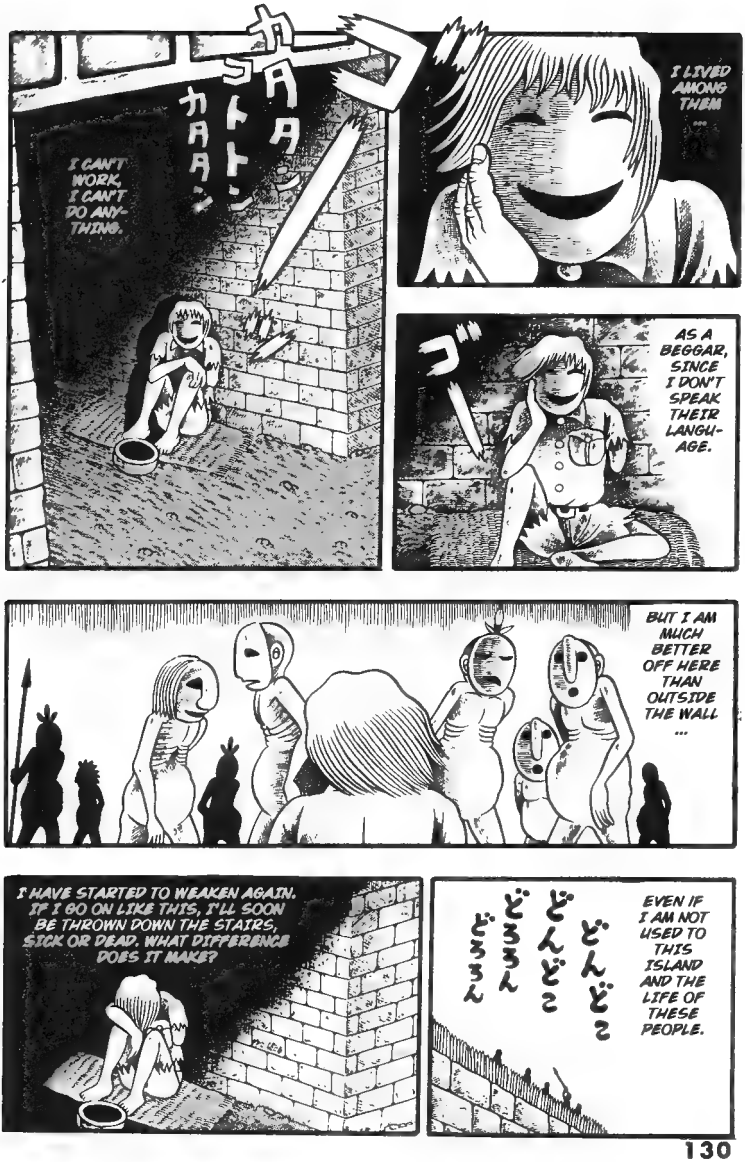
AND AT LAST I MANAGED TO SEE THE WORLD ON THE OTHER SIDE...


カタカタ
カタン
I CAN'T WORK, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
I LIVED AMONG THEM ...
ゴ
AS A BEGGAR, SINCE I DON'T SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE.
BUT I AM MUCH BETTER OFF HERE THAN OUTSIDE THE WALL ...
I HAVE STARTED TO WEAKEN AGAIN. IF I GO ON LIKE THIS, I'LL SOON BE THROWN DOWN THE STAIRS, SICK OR DEAD. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
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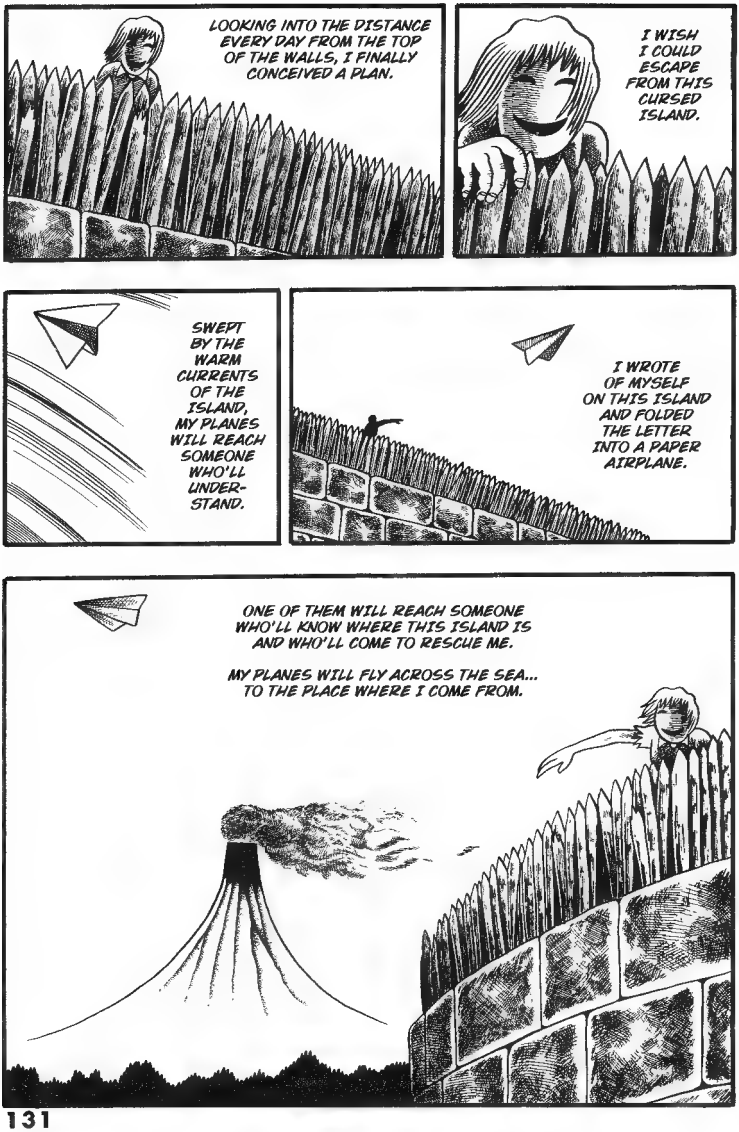
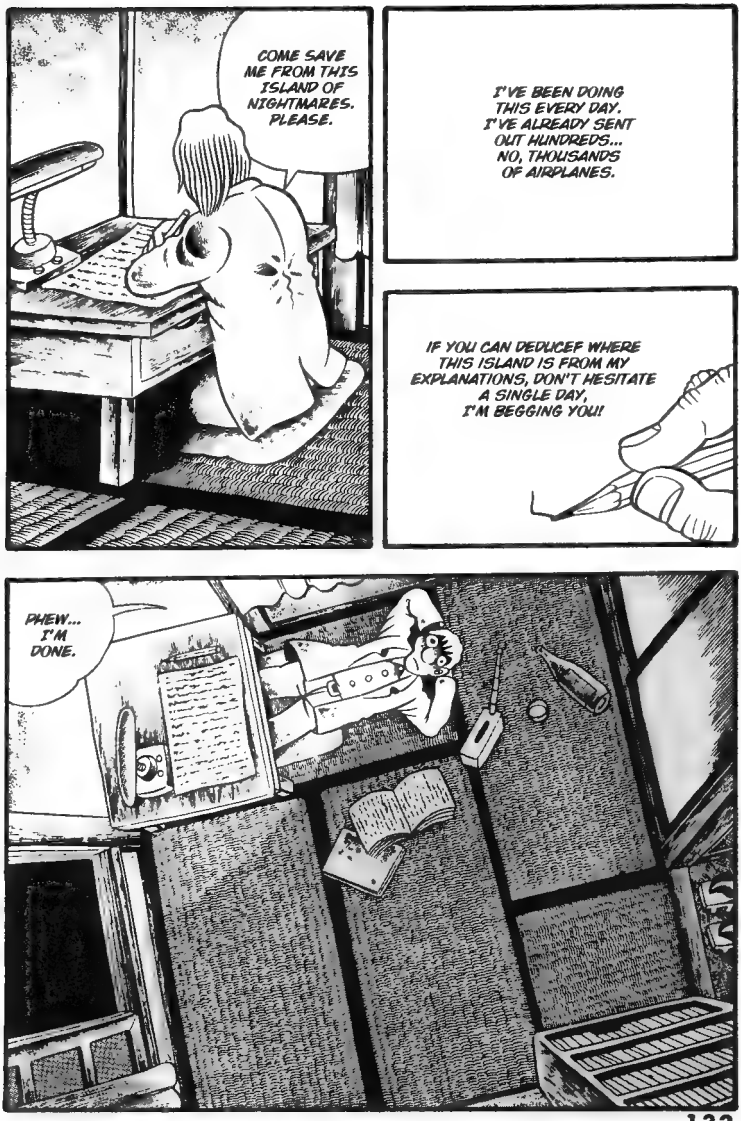
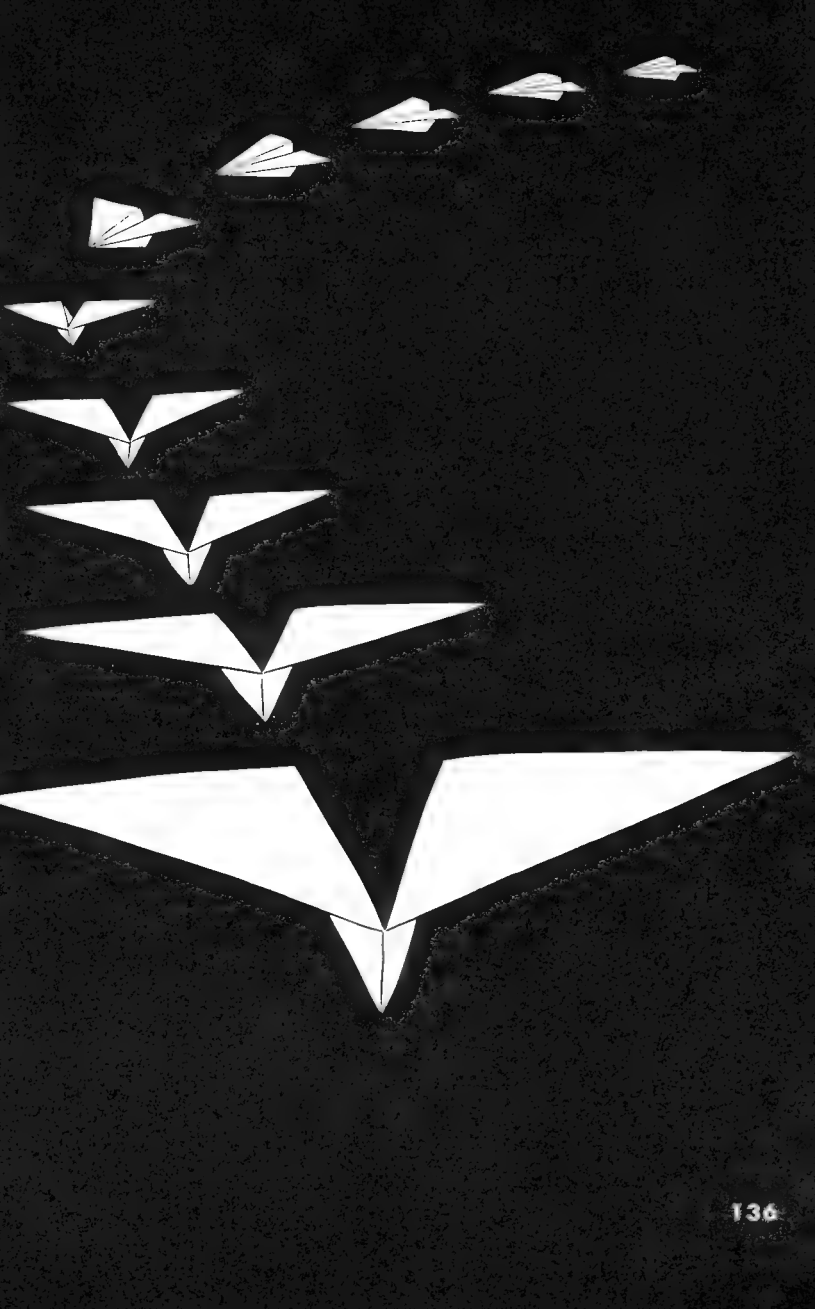
どろろん
EVEN IF I AM NOT USED TO THIS ISLAND AND THE LIFE OF THESE PEOPLE.


LOOKING INTO THE DISTANCE EVERY DAY FROM THE TOP OF THE WALLS, I FINALLY CONCEIVED A PLAN.
I WISH I COULD ESCAPE FROM THIS CURSED ISLAND.
SWEPT BY THE WARM CURRENTS OF THE ISLAND, MY PLANES WILL REACH SOMEONE WHO'LL UNDER-STAND.
I WROTE OF MYSELF ON THIS ISLAND AND FOLDED THE LETTER INTO A PAPER AIRPLANE.
ONE OF THEM WILL REACH SOMEONE WHO'LL KNOW WHERE THIS ISLAND IS AND WHO'LL COME TO RESCUE ME.
MY PLANES WILL FLY ACROSS THE SEA... TO THE PLACE WHERE I COME FROM.

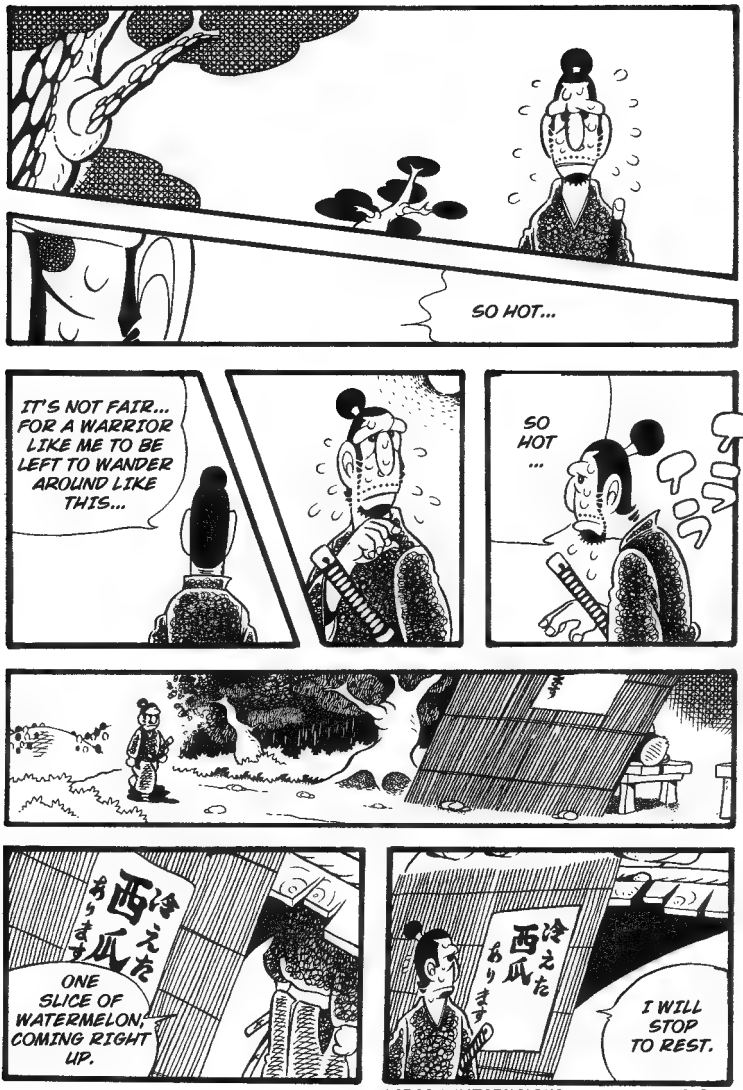

COME SAVE ME FROM THIS ISLAND OF NIGHTMARES. PLEASE.
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS EVERY DAY. I'VE ALREADY SENT OUT HUNDREDS... NO, THOUSANDS OF AIRPLANES.
IF YOU CAN DEDUCEF WHERE THIS ISLAND IS FROM MY EXPLANATIONS, DON'T HESITATE A SINGLE DAY, I'M BEGGING YOU!
PHEW... I'M DONE.

SPEND THE NIGHT WITH US...
AH... AH...
AND, NOW, DEAR LISTENERS ...
FUUU!
シャッ!
FLY!
FUUU!
HAHAHA! FUUU... HAHAHA! FUUU...



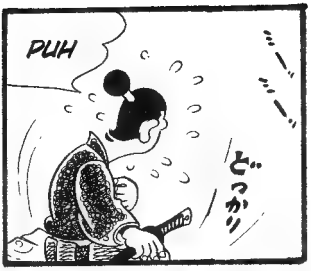
COLD SWEAT

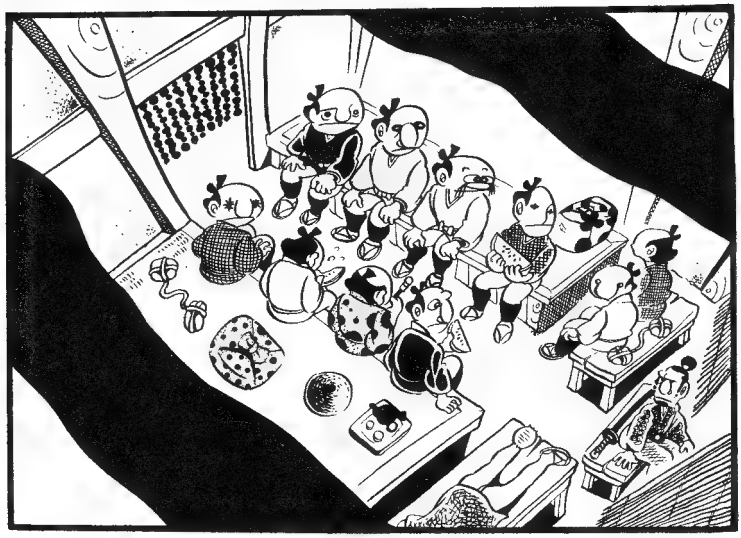
HOT... VERY HOT... THE MASTERLESS SAMURAI HAD BEEN WANDERING AROUND FOR A WHILE...


SO HOT...
IT'S NOT FAIR... FOR A WARRIOR LIKE ME TO BE LEFT TO WANDER AROUND LIKE THIS...
SO HOT ...
ひえた 西瓜 あります
ONE SLICE OF WATERMELON, COMING RIGHT UP.
ひえた 西瓜 あります
I WILL STOP TO REST.

*FRESH WATERMELONS

冷えや


PUH
どっかり



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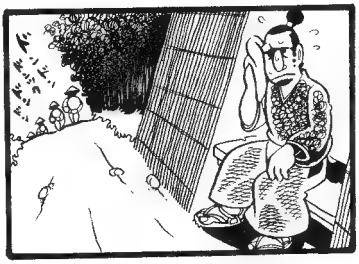
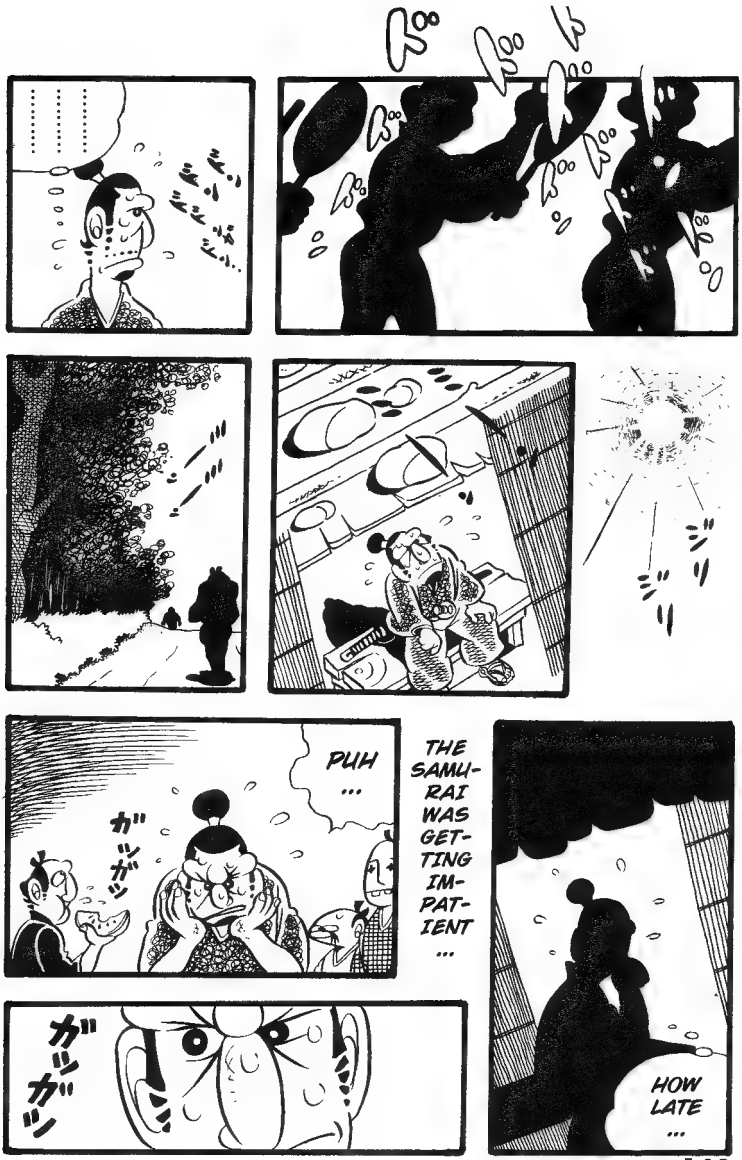
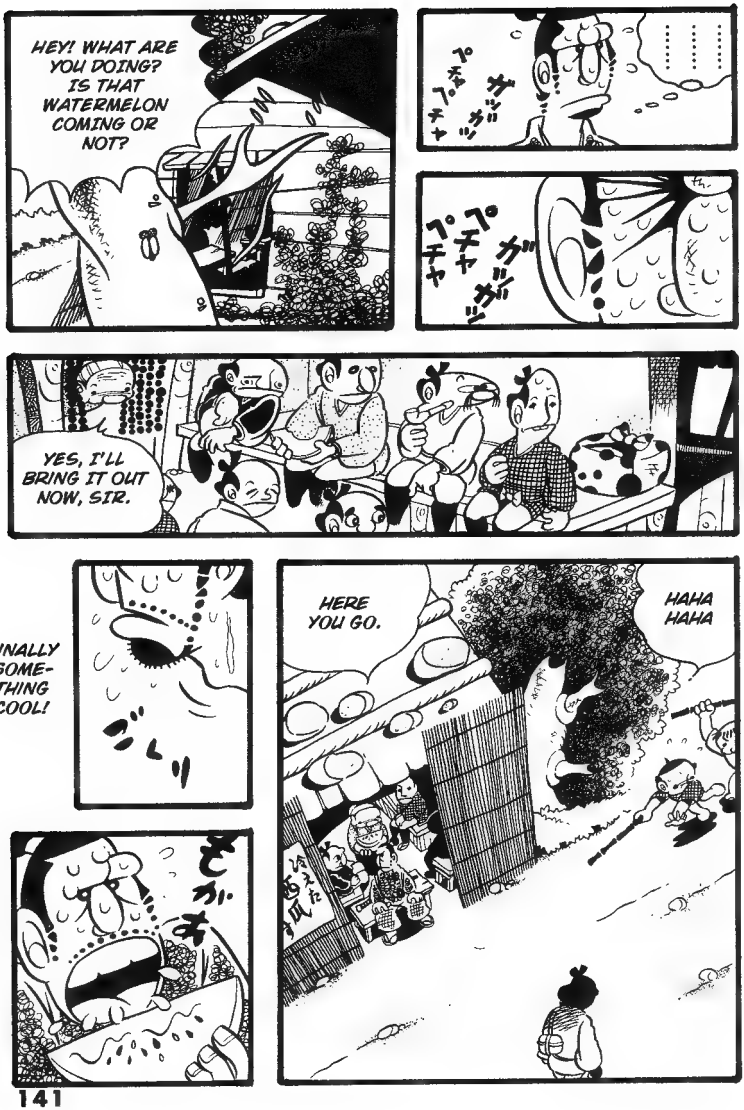


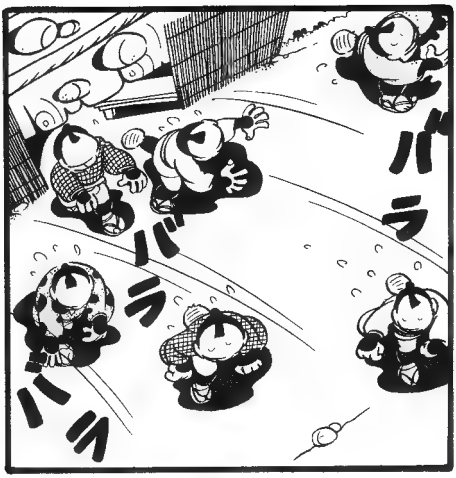

PUH ...
ガッガッ
THE SAMURAI WAS GETTING IMPATIENT ...
HOW LATE ...
ガッガッ


HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IS THAT WATERMELON COMING OR NOT?
……
ガッガッ
ペチャペチャ
ガッガッ
ペチャペチャ
YES, I'LL BRING IT OUT NOW, SIR.
FINALLY SOME-THING COOL!
HERE YOU GO.
HAHA HAHA

ARGH!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
ぐすん
SORRY, SIR.
THE WAIT HAD BEEN FOR NOTHING ...
UMPF
GRRR ...
ジリ ジリ
GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW, YOU BRATS!
SEEING THE FACE OF THE MAN WHO WAS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY, THE SAMURAI BECAME EVEN ANGRIER.

YOU! CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?
WAKE UP! YOU'VE GOT THE COOLEST PLACE ALL TO YOURSELF!
GAAAH!
ボワ
PUSHING THE MAN ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE ...
HOW DARE YOU LAUGH AT A WARRIOR?

WAKE UP, DAMMIT!
YOU HAVE FARTED IN THE FACE OF A SAMURAI!
わな
わな
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
HOW DARE YOU ?!
EXCUSE ME, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT MY FARTS ARE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY AND APPROPRIATE TO YOUR HIGH RANK.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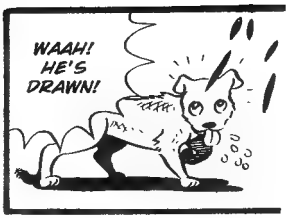
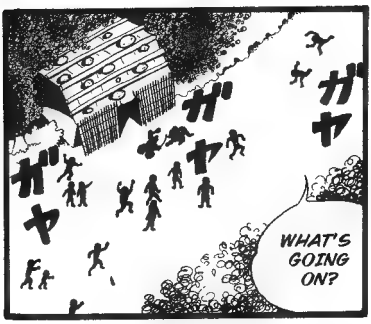

WAAH! HE'S DRAWN!

LET'S RUN AWAY!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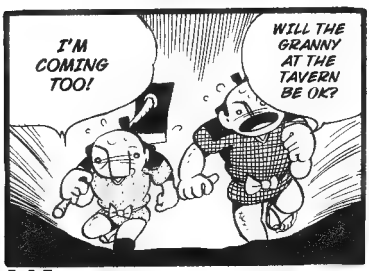
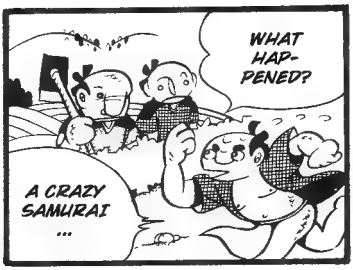
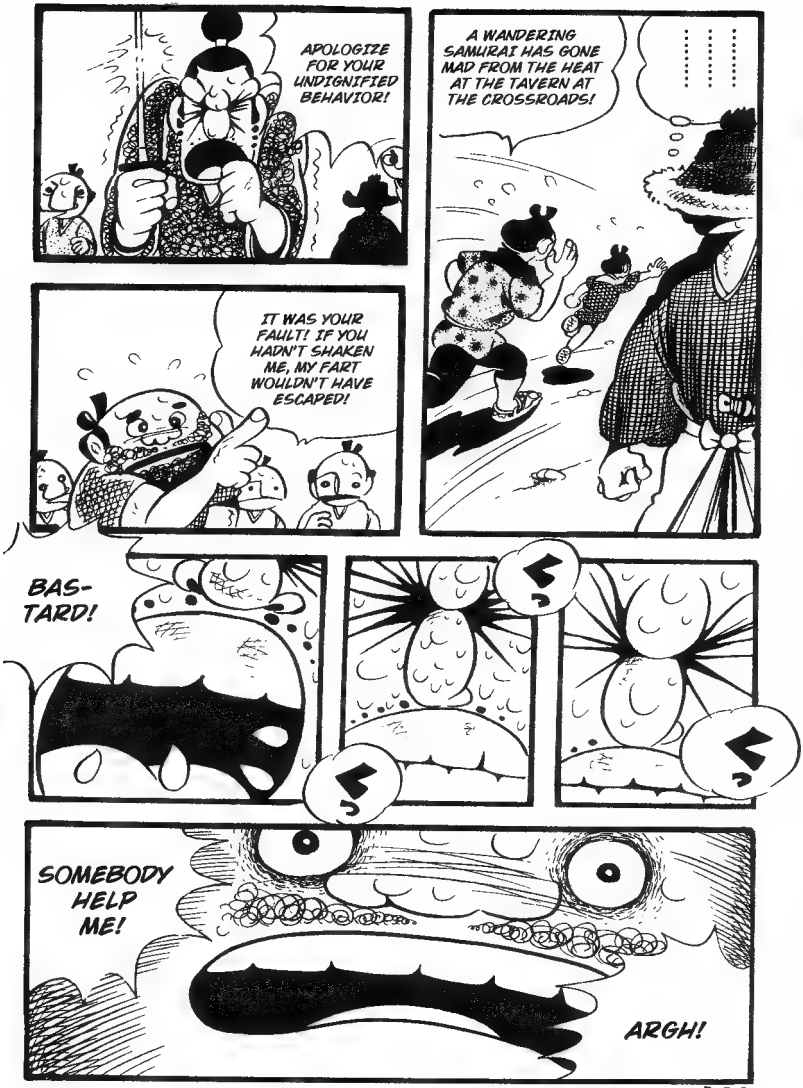
ガヤ
ガヤ
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HE'S GONE MAD FROM THE HEAT!

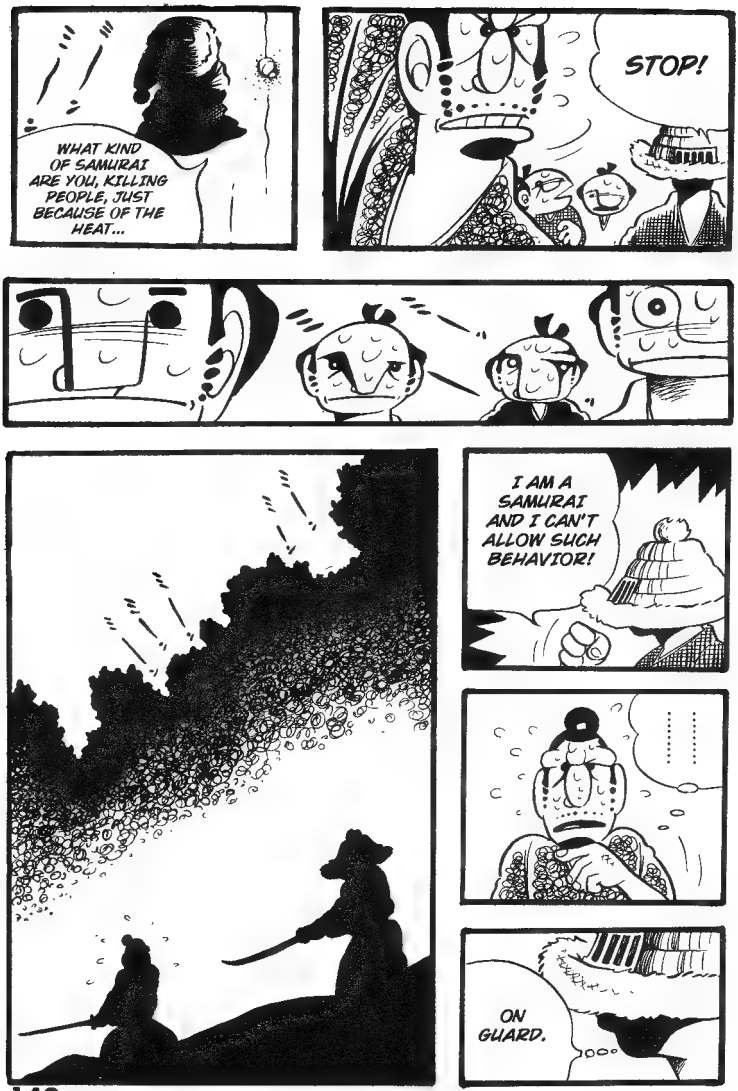

I'M COMING TOO!
WILL THE GRANNY AT THE TAVERN BE OK?

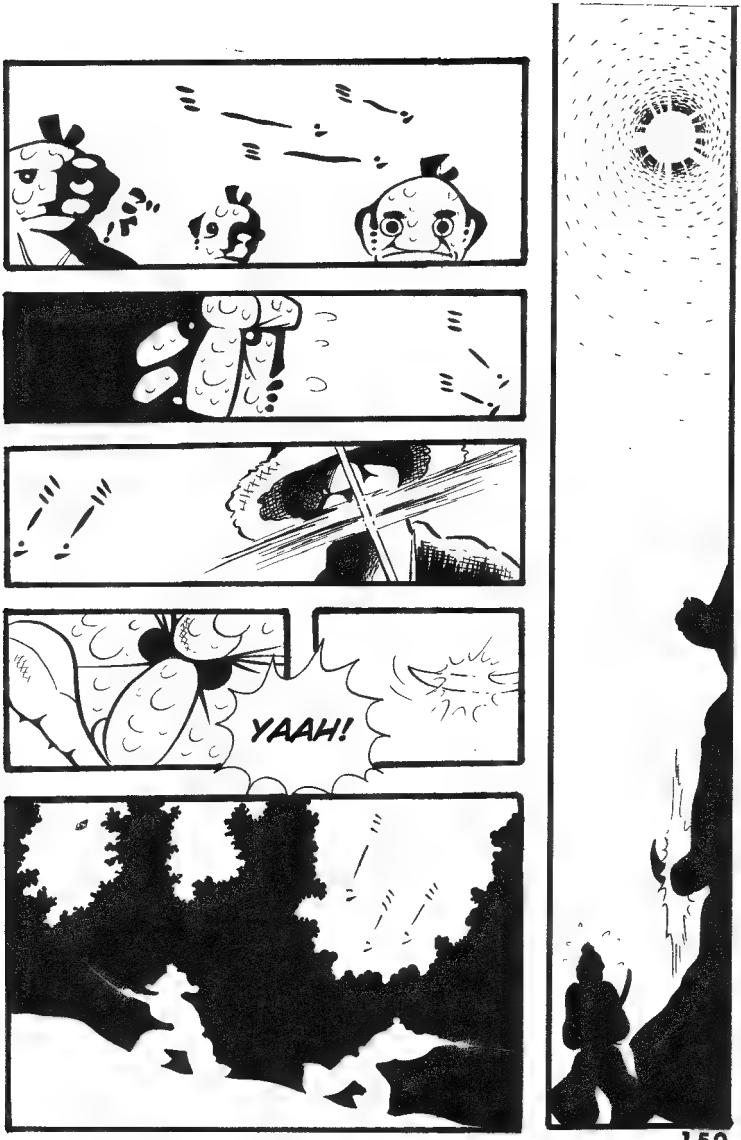

WHAT HAP-PENED?
A CRAZY SAMURAI ...


APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR UNDIGNIFIED BEHAVIOR!
A WANDERING SAMURAI HAS GONE MAD FROM THE HEAT AT THE TAVERN AT THE CROSSROADS!
IT WAS YOUR FAULT! IF YOU HADN'T SHAKEN ME, MY FART WOULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED!
BAS-TARD!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!
ARGH!

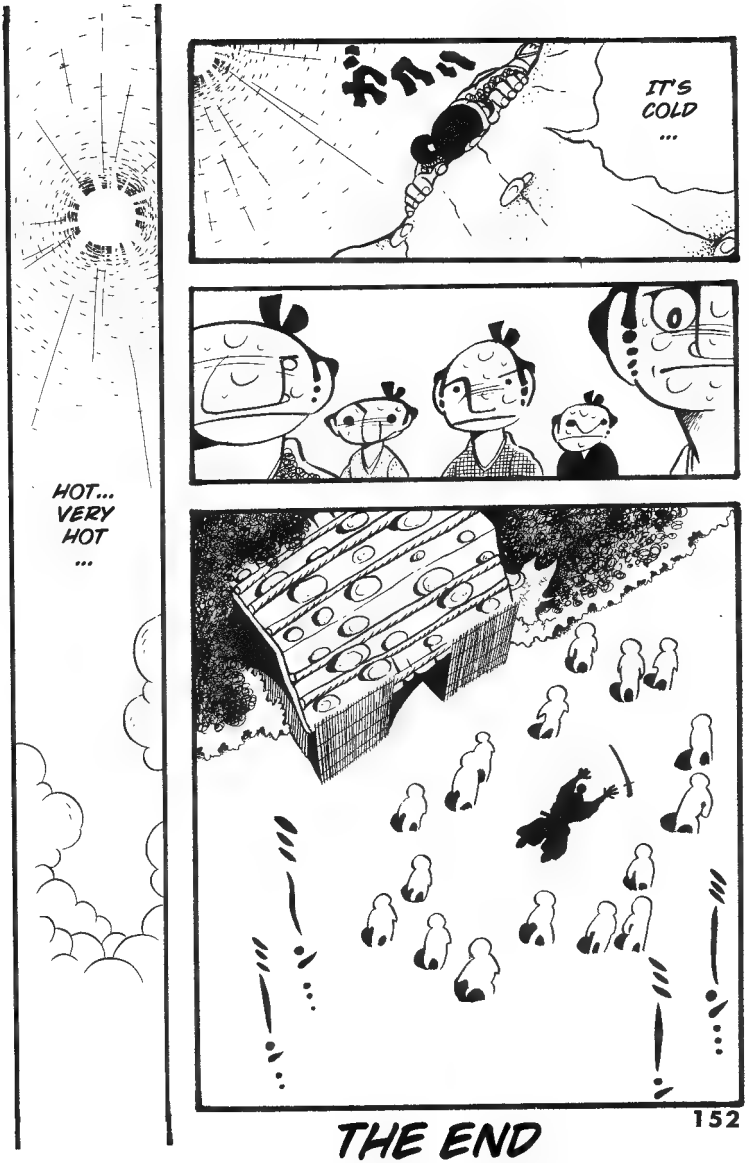
グッ
ひゃあ
URGH...
PPPA
NOOO
...

!!
MORON... YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST APOLO-GIZED...
SAMURAI DON'T GO AROUND KILLING PEOPLE!
MURDER-ER!
MURDER-ER!
UAGH!
HELP!
ARE YOU GUYS LOOKING FOR A FIGHT TOO?
I'LL SHOW YOU!


WHAT KIND OF SAMURAI ARE YOU, KILLING PEOPLE, JUST BECAUSE OF THE HEAT...
STOP!
I AM A SAMURAI AND I CAN'T ALLOW SUCH BEHAVIOR!
.....
ON GUARD.


YAAH!

CRAZY ...
ゲホ
COOL AT LAST...
IT'S DARK... BUT FINALLY... COOL...
URGH ...
AT LAST... AT LAST ...
BUT COOL AT LAST ...
ALL DARK ...



THE END

THE
HUNTER

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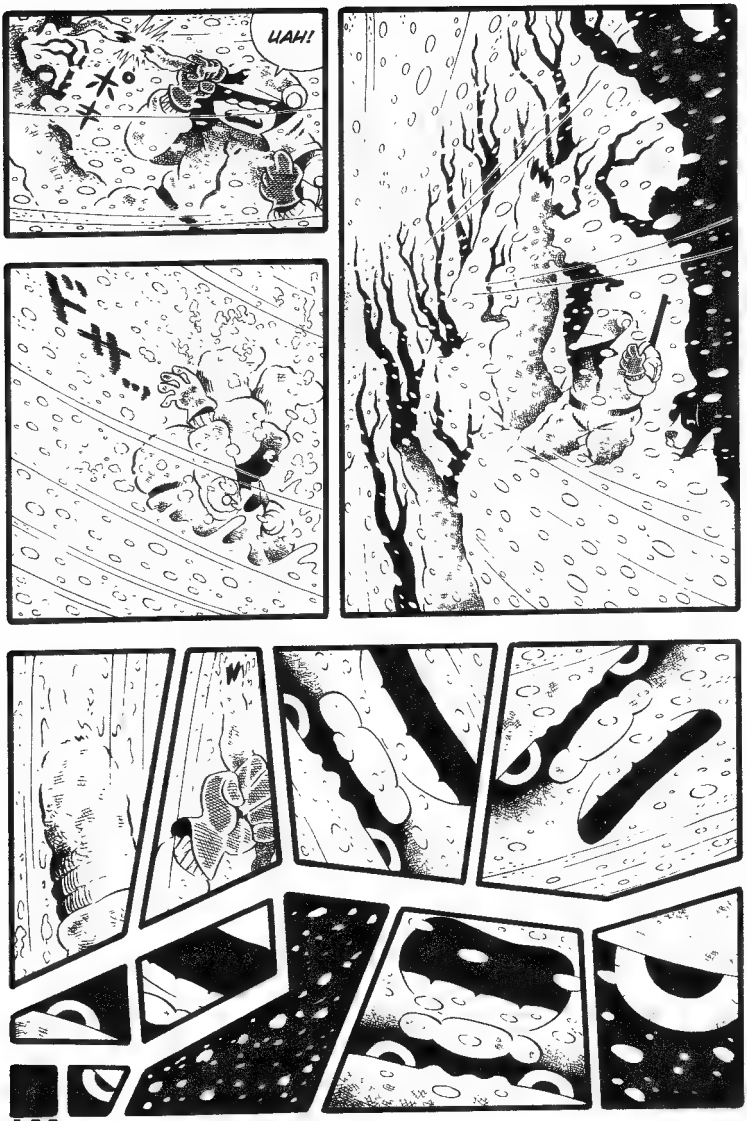
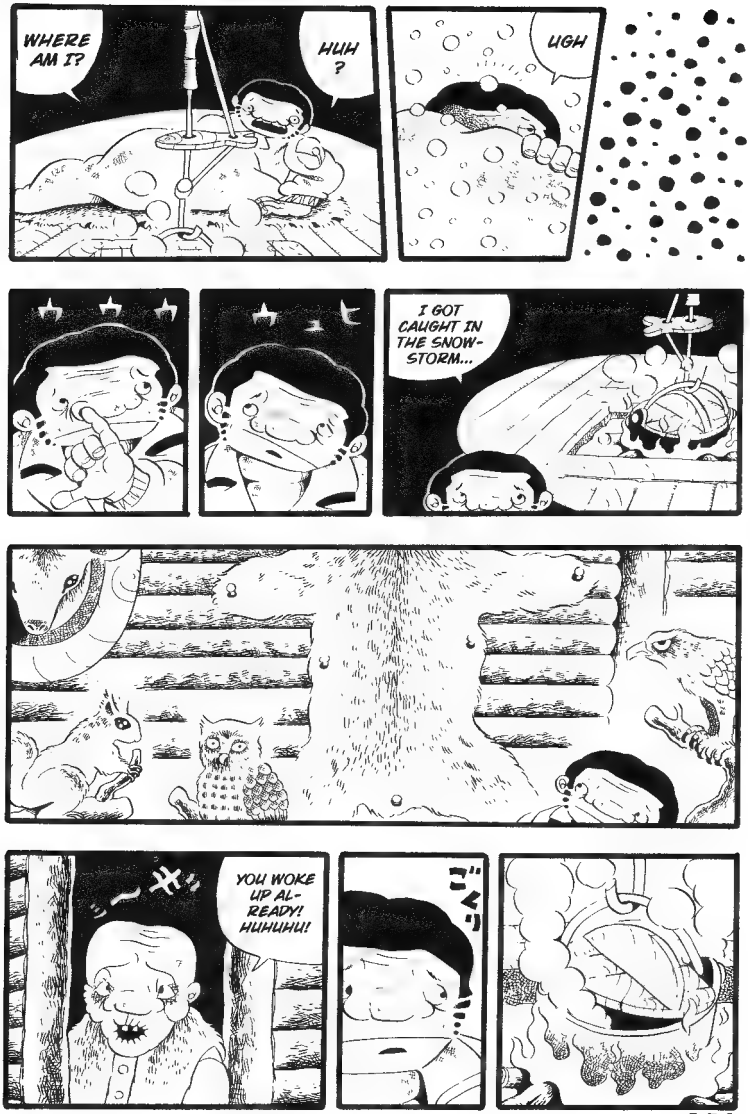

UAH!


WHERE AM I?
HUH ?
UGH
I GOT CAUGHT IN THE SNOW-STORM...
YOU WOKE UP AL-READY! HUHUHU!

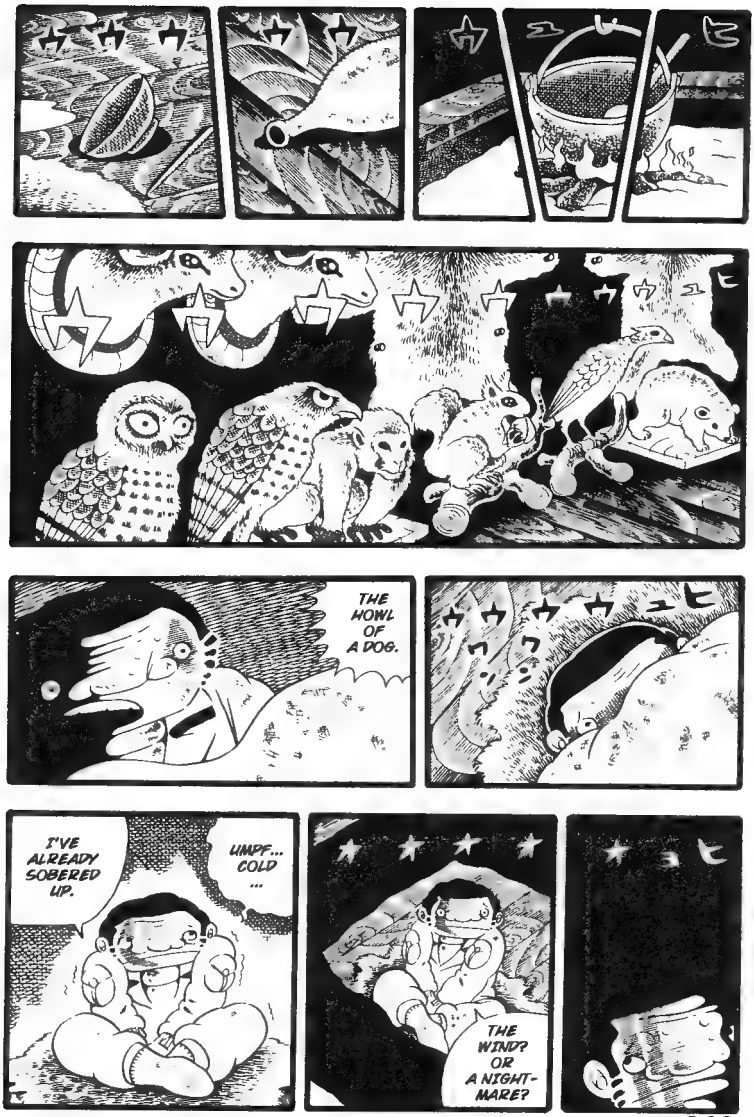
I JUST FOUND YOU BY CHANCE.
NO ...
DID YOU SAVE ME ?
*SAKE
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW ?
HUH ?
WHAT ABOUT MY DOG? WHAT ABOUT MY SHOT-GUN?
BUT... THEN ...
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU? I JUST FOUND YOU LYING AROUND AND THAT'S ALL ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH ...
TAKE THIS. IT'S WARM... IT'LL DO YOU GOOD.
IN THIS BLIZ-ZARD ?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT THERE ...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. NOT ONLY DID YOU SAVE MY LIFE...
KEEP YOUR GRATITUDE TO YOURSELF.
LIFE? WHAT...
HAVE SOME SAKE TOO, I FETCHED IT ON PURPOSE.
IT IS YOU WHO'S DOING ME A FAVOR.
WHEN ONE HAS BEEN ALONE IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR SO LONG, ONE COMES TO APPRECIATE COMPANY.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD HUMAN COMPANY. LET'S CELEBRATE!
A FEW LAUGHS NEVER HURT ANYONE... HEHE!
THE SAKE IS DOING YOU GOOD. HAHA!
YOU'VE COME TO KEEP ME COMPANY. HEHEHE!

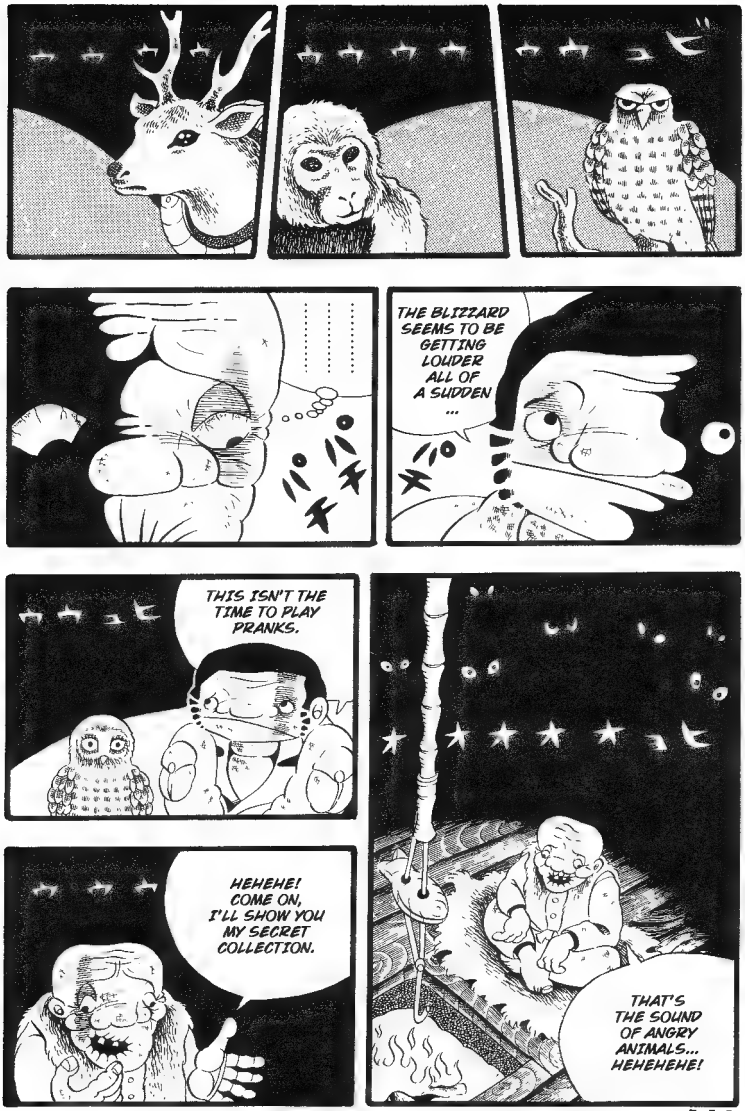
YOU HAVE AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION.
HEHE-HEHE!
NO BIG DEAL.
I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. A HUNTER APPRECIATES THIS KIND OF THING.
NAH, THEY'RE JUST DEAD CRITTERS! HEHEHE!

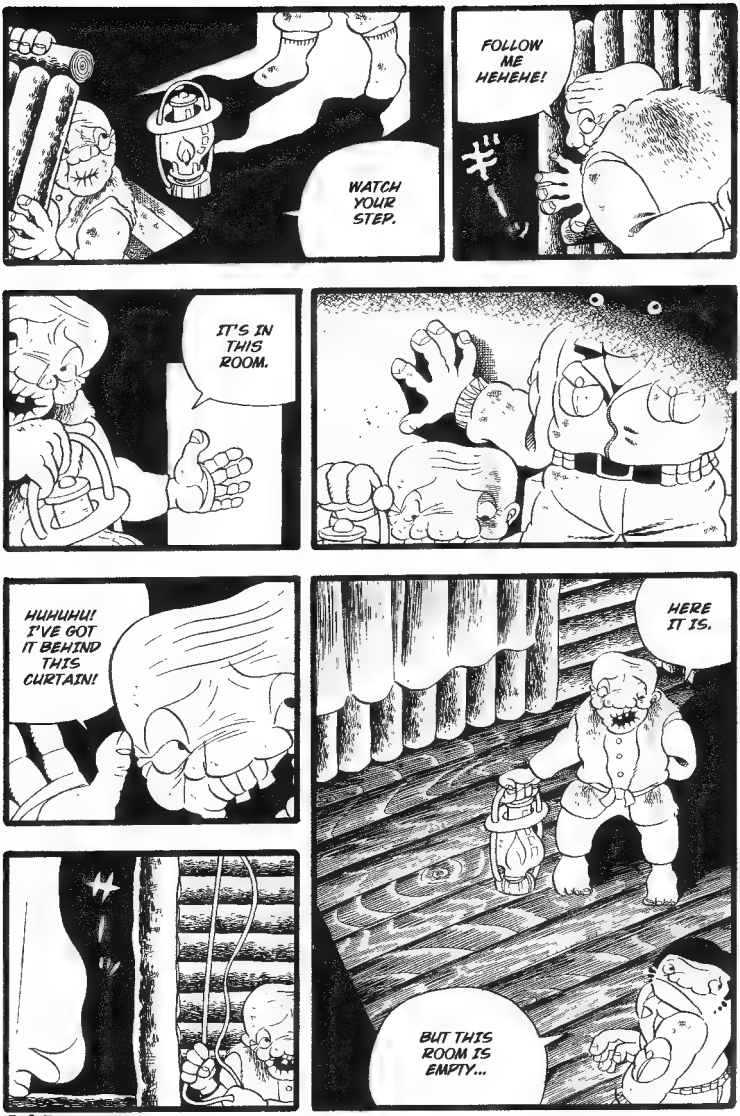
BURP ...
HAVE YOU STUFFED THEM YOURSELF? THEY'RE IN VERY NATURAL POSTURES. THEY LOOK ALIVE...
IF YOU SAY SO ...
AND I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S A MARVEL!
AND YOUR PREY'S SCREAM OF TERROR WHEN IT FEELS CORNERED, THE THRILL KNOWING IT IS ALREADY YOURS.
PICKING YOUR PREY, YES... OF COURSE I KNOW ...
HICK!
THE THRILL OF LOOKING THROUGH THE SCOPE, PICKING YOUR PREY...
MAN WAS BORN TO BE A HUNTER.
SUCH A THRILL ...
THERE IS NO EMOTION LIKE IT.
WHAT?
AND AT ANY MOMENT, THE HUNTER CAN BECOME THE PREY.
NO, MAN IS NOT THE KING OF CREATION.
BUT YOU SPEAK OF KILLING ANIMALS FOR FUN.

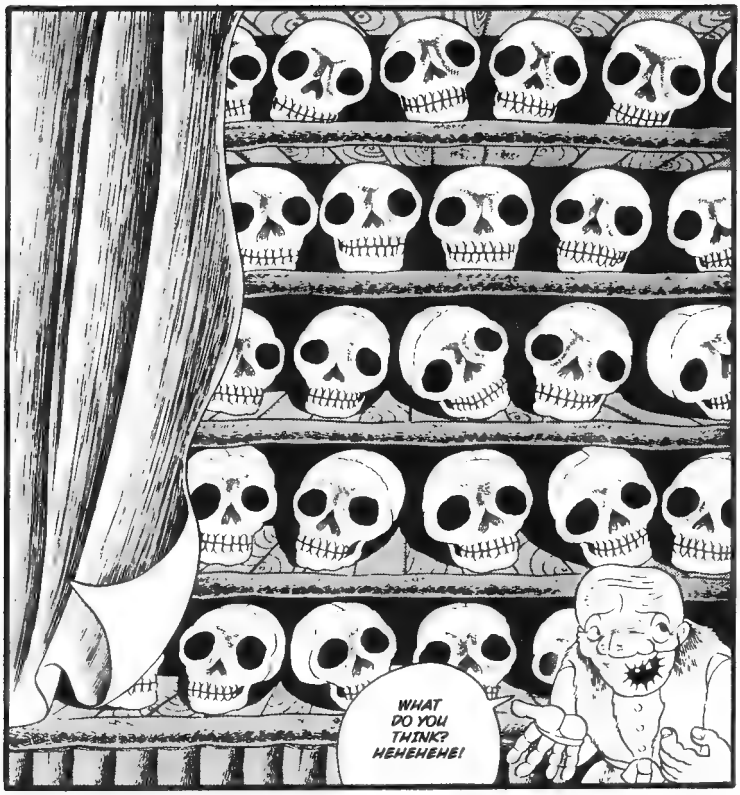
HAPPY? ABOUT WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.
NO, NO... NOT AT ALL... I'M HAPPY!
YOU TALK NOTHING BUT NONSENSE! YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK!
HEHEHE! SLURP SLURP
REALLY? HOHO-HO!
IF I TELL YOU, YOU'LL GET ANGRY AND I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT...
フィー
EXPLAIN IT TO ME RIGHT NOW!
THE SALT OF LIFE! HOHOHO!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE ALCOHOL, WHICH IS THE SALT OF LIFE.
TODAY I'M VERY HAPPY.
COME ON...
TO OUR HEALTH! HAHAHA!
キャー
THAT'S WHAT I SAID!
酒

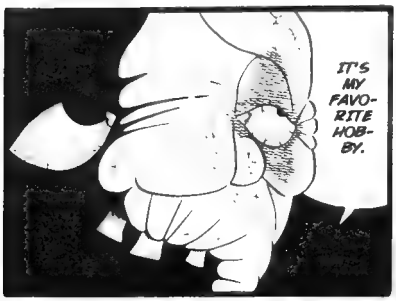

THE HOWL OF A DOG.
I'VE ALREADY SOBERED UP.
UMPF... COLD ...
THE WIND? OR A NIGHT-MARE?

WHERE HAS THE OLD MAN GONE?
I'M GOING TO STOKE IT UP...
THE FIRE'S ALMOST OUT...
ALREADY AWAKE? HEHEHE-HE!
パチパチ
パチパチ

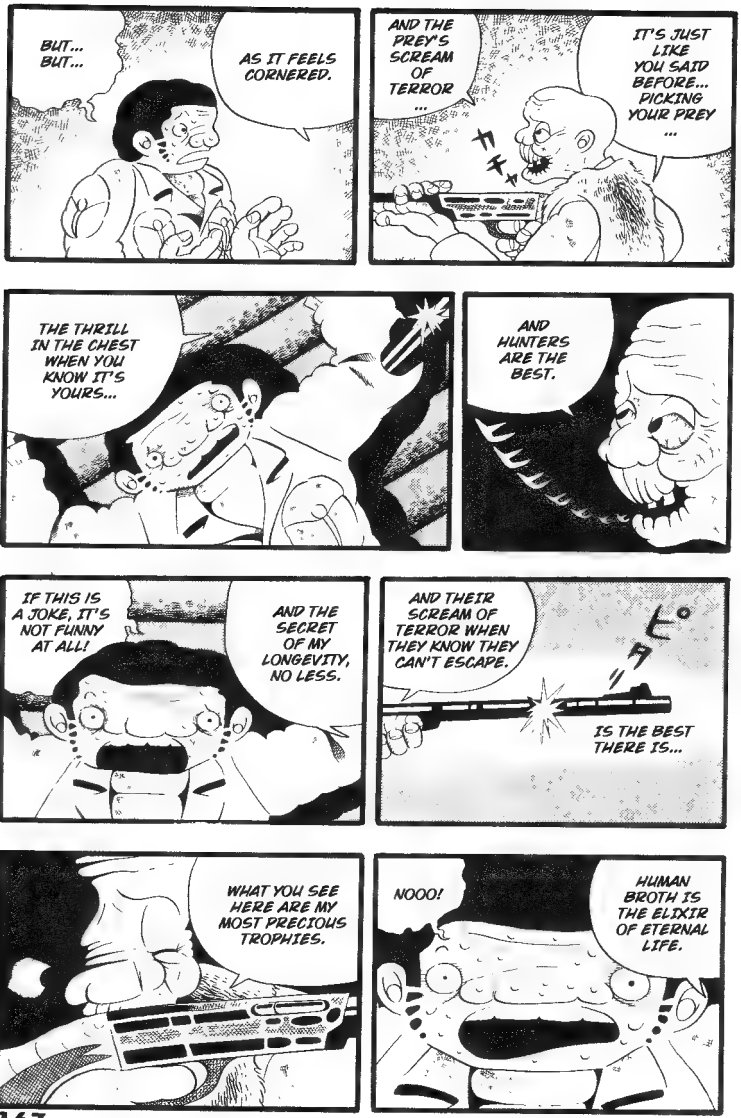

THE BLIZZARD SEEMS TO BE GETTING LOUDER ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO PLAY PRANKS.
HEHEHE! COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU MY SECRET COLLECTION.
THAT'S THE SOUND OF ANGRY ANIMALS... HEHEHEHE!

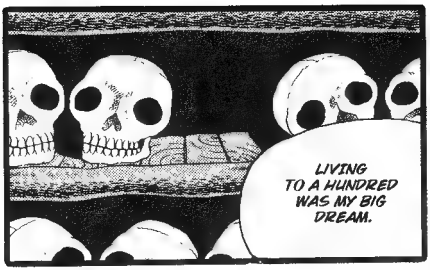

WATCH YOUR STEP.
FOLLOW ME HEHEHE!
IT'S IN THIS ROOM.
HUHUHU! I'VE GOT IT BEHIND THIS CURTAIN!
HERE IT IS.
BUT THIS ROOM IS EMPTY...

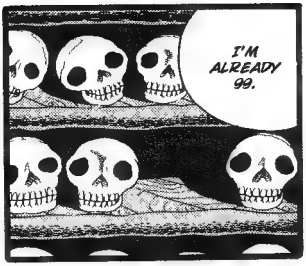

WHAT DO YOU THINK? HEHEHEHE!

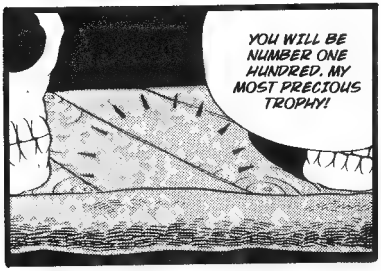

IT'S MY FAVO-RITE HOB-BY.

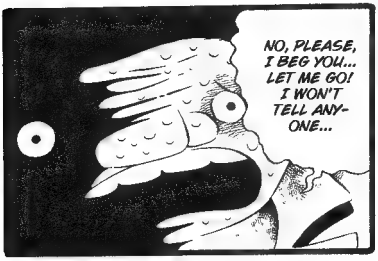
UAGH!


BUT... BUT...
AS IT FEELS CORNERED.
AND THE PREY'S SCREAM OF TERROR ...
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE... PICKING YOUR PREY ...
THE THRILL IN THE CHEST WHEN YOU KNOW IT'S YOURS...
AND HUNTERS ARE THE BEST.
IF THIS IS A JOKE, IT'S NOT FUNNY AT ALL!
AND THE SECRET OF MY LONGEVITY, NO LESS.
AND THEIR SCREAM OF TERROR WHEN THEY KNOW THEY CAN'T ESCAPE.
IS THE BEST THERE IS...
WHAT YOU SEE HERE ARE MY MOST PRECIOUS TROPHIES.
NOOO!
HUMAN BROTH IS THE ELIXIR OF ETERNAL LIFE.





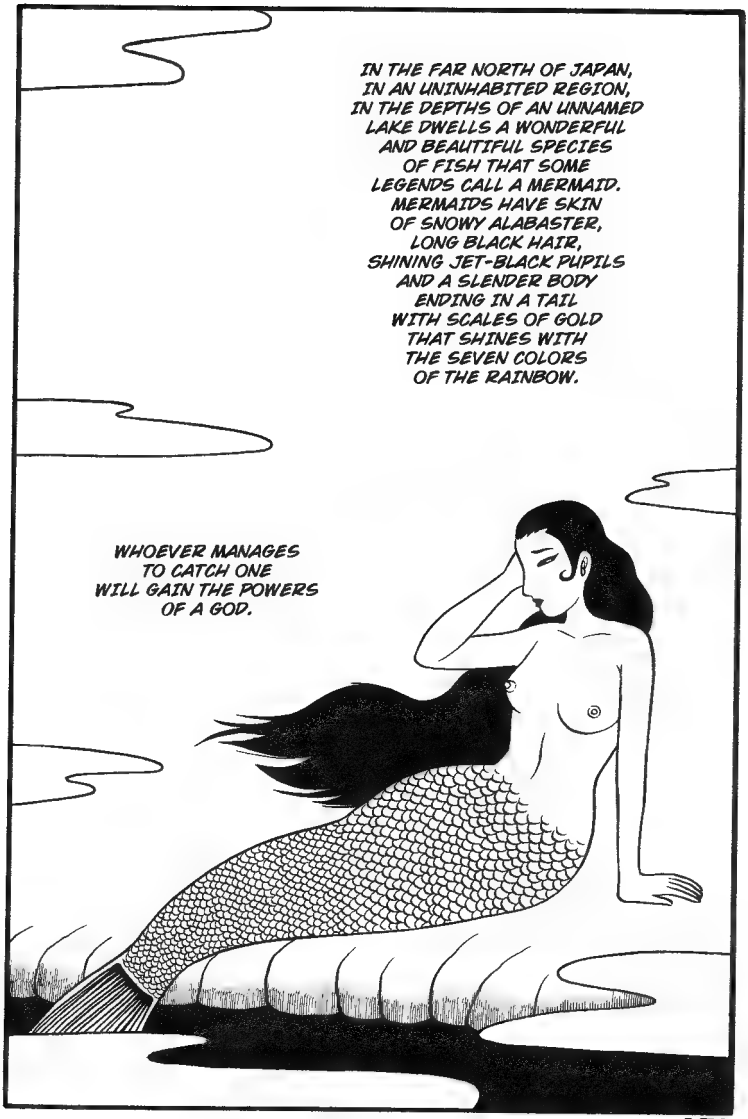


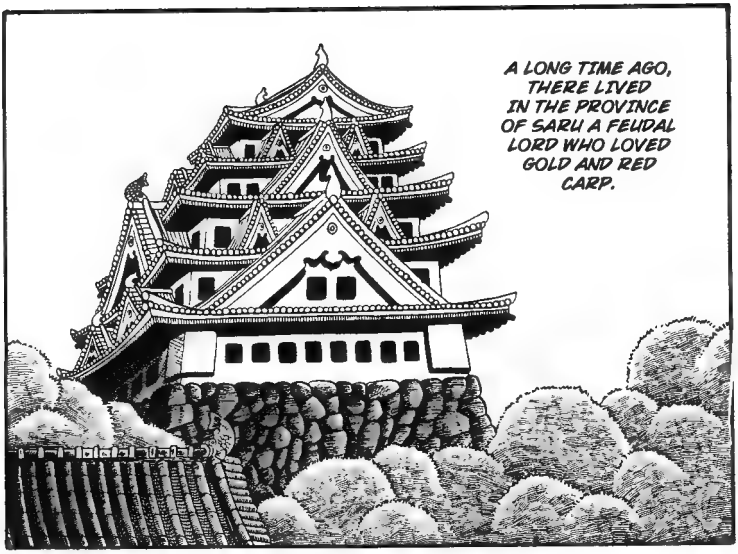


THE NIGHT FINISHED SWALLOWING THE MOUNTAINS AND THE BLIZZARD HOWLED LOUDER AND LOUDER.

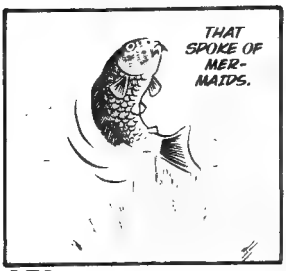
THE END

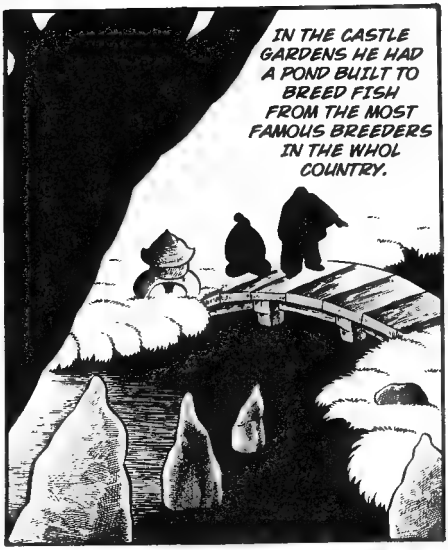
THE MERMAID

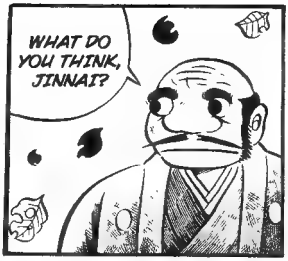

IN THE FAR NORTH OF JAPAN, IN AN UNINHABITED REGION, IN THE DEPTHS OF AN UNNAMED LAKE DWELLS A WONDERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL SPECIES OF FISH THAT SOME LEGENDS CALL A MERMAID. MERMAIDS HAVE SKIN OF SNOWY ALABASTER, LONG BLACK HAIR, SHINING JET-BLACK PUPILS AND A SLENDER BODY ENDING IN A TAIL WITH SCALES OF GOLD THAT SHINES WITH THE SEVEN COLORS OF THE RAINBOW.
WHOEVER MANAGES TO CATCH ONE WILL GAIN THE POWERS OF A GOD.

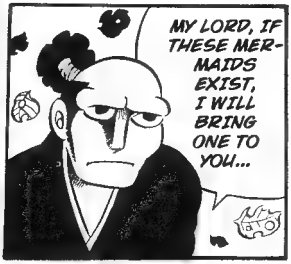

A LONG TIME AGO, THERE LIVED IN THE PROVINCE OF SARU A FEUDAL LORD WHO LOVED GOLD AND RED CARP.

ONE DAY, HE CAME INTO POSSESSION OF AN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT ...

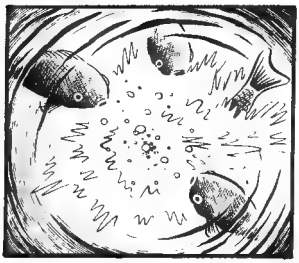

THAT SPOKE OF MER-MAIDS.

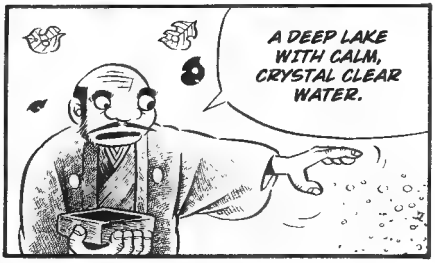

IN THE CASTLE GARDENS HE HAD A POND BUILT TO BREED FISH FROM THE MOST FAMOUS BREEDERS IN THE WHOL COUNTRY.

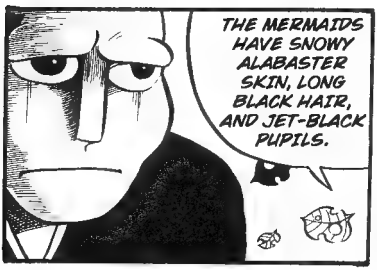


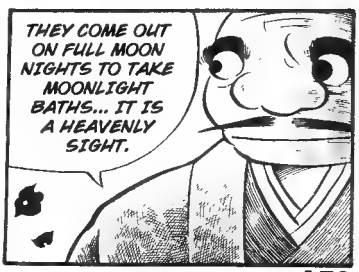


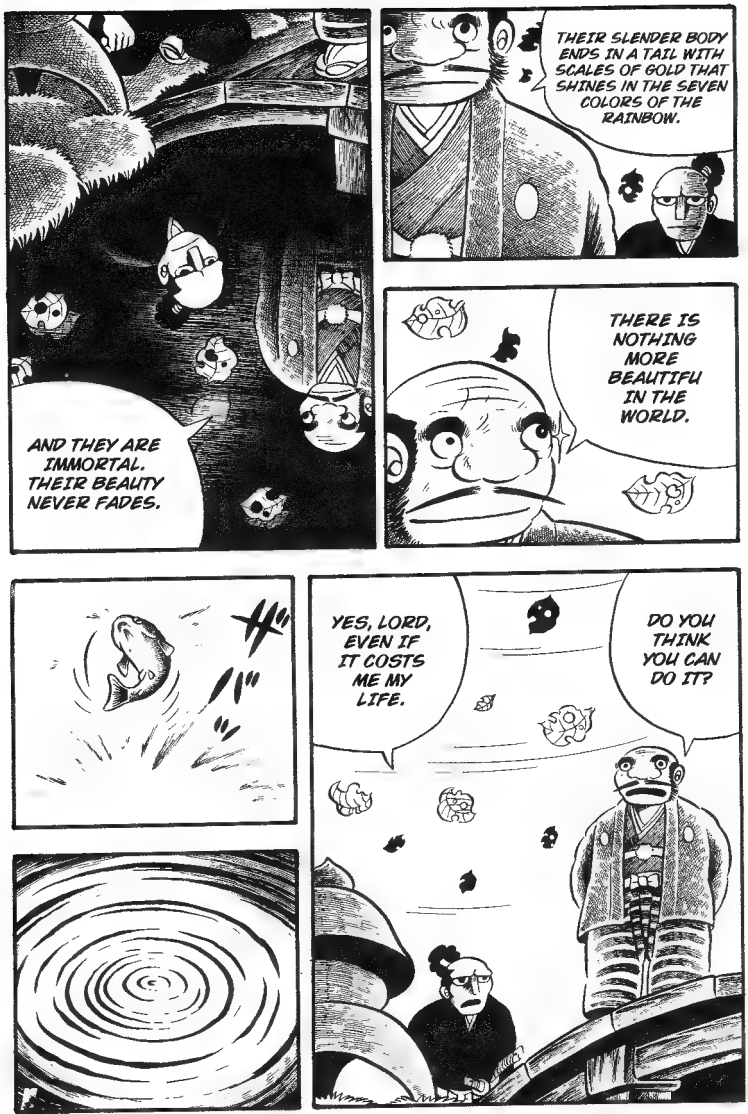
*OLD NAME FOR HOKKAIDO

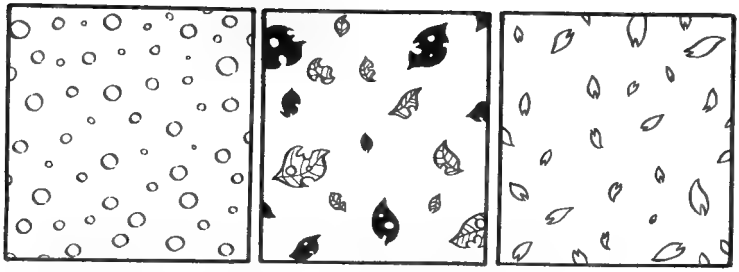




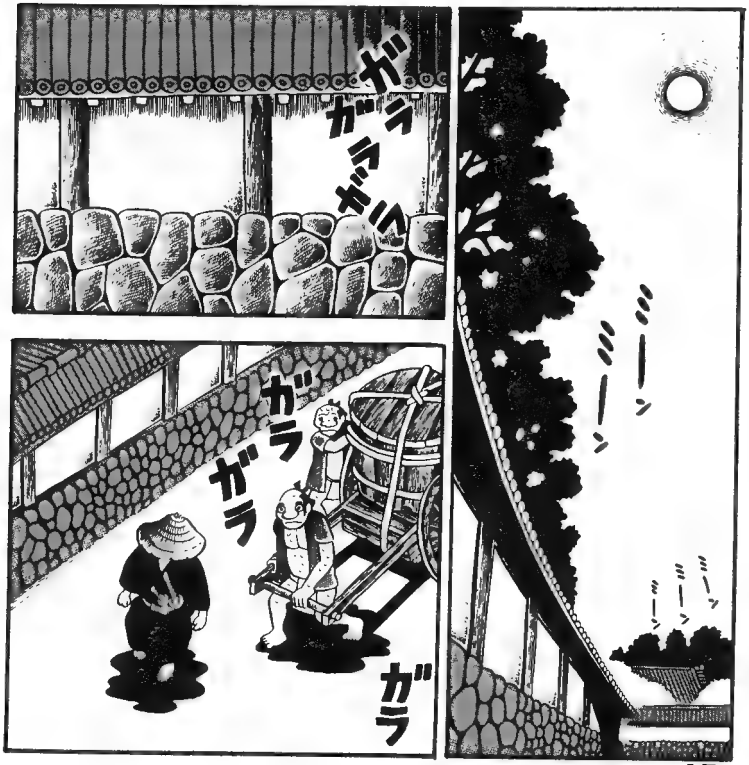





AND THEY ARE IMMORTAL. THEIR BEAUTY NEVER FADES.
THEIR SLENDER BODY ENDS IN A TAIL WITH SCALES OF GOLD THAT SHINES IN THE SEVEN COLORS OF THE RAINBOW.
THERE IS NOTHING MORE BEAUTIFUL IN THE WORLD.
YES, LORD, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT?



MONTHS AND YEARS PASSED...



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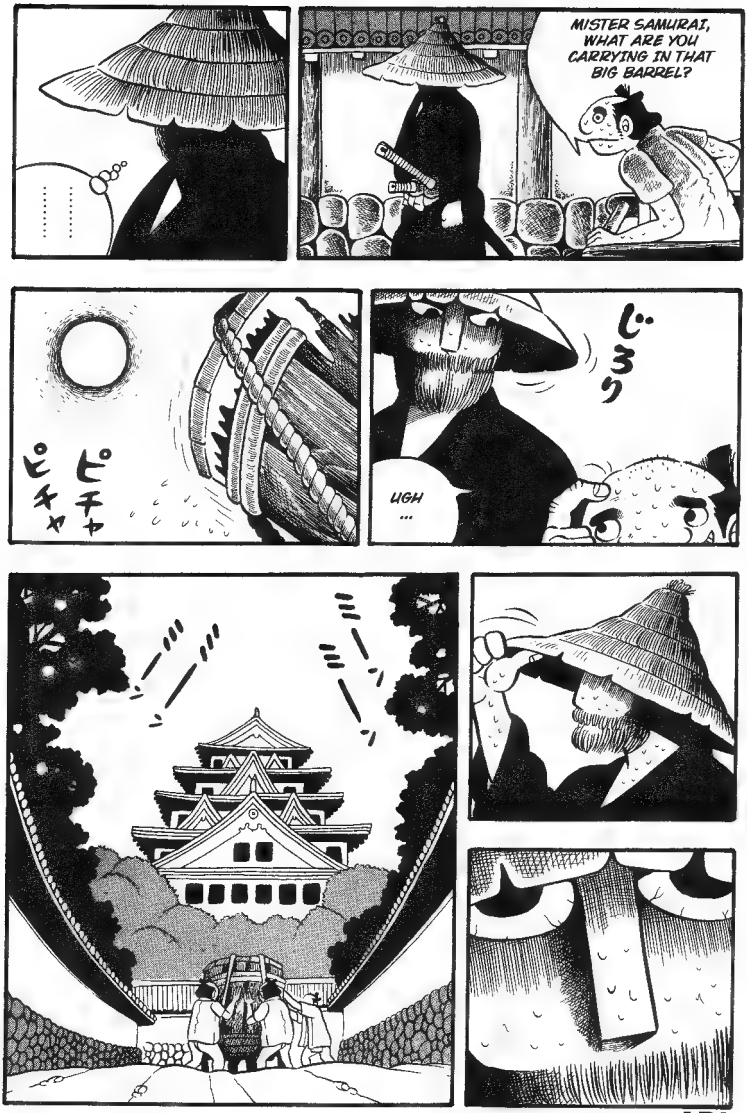
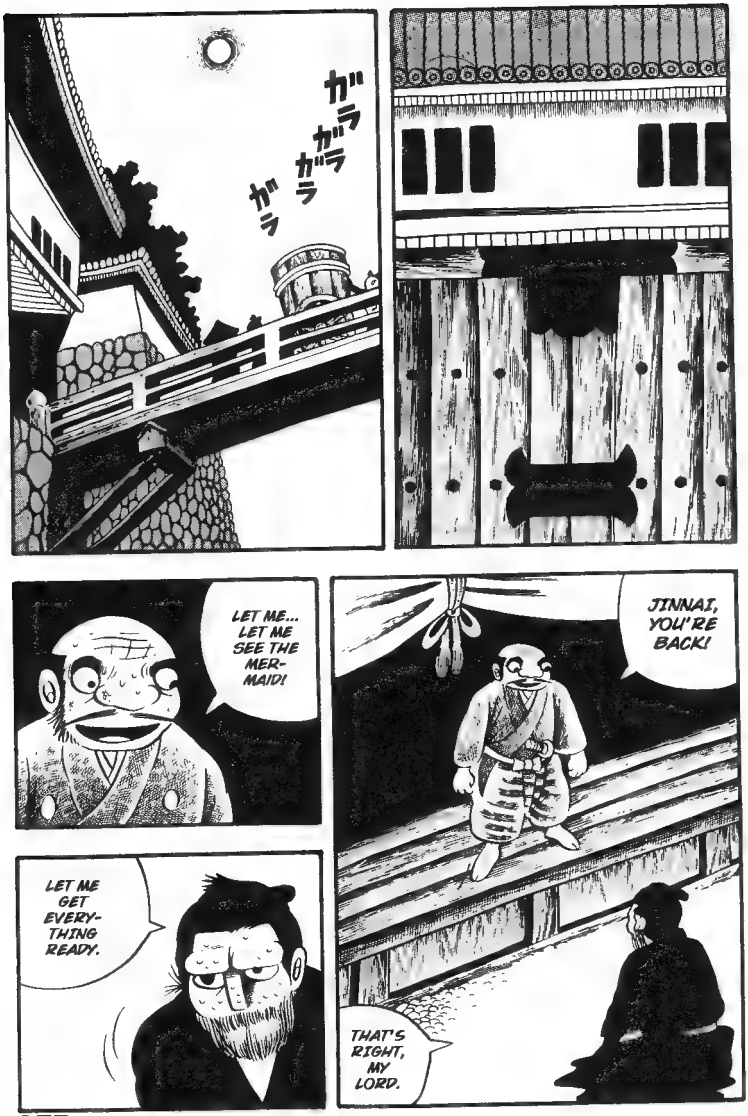

MISTER SAMURAI, WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING IN THAT BIG BARREL?
じろり
UGH ...
ピチャ
ピチャ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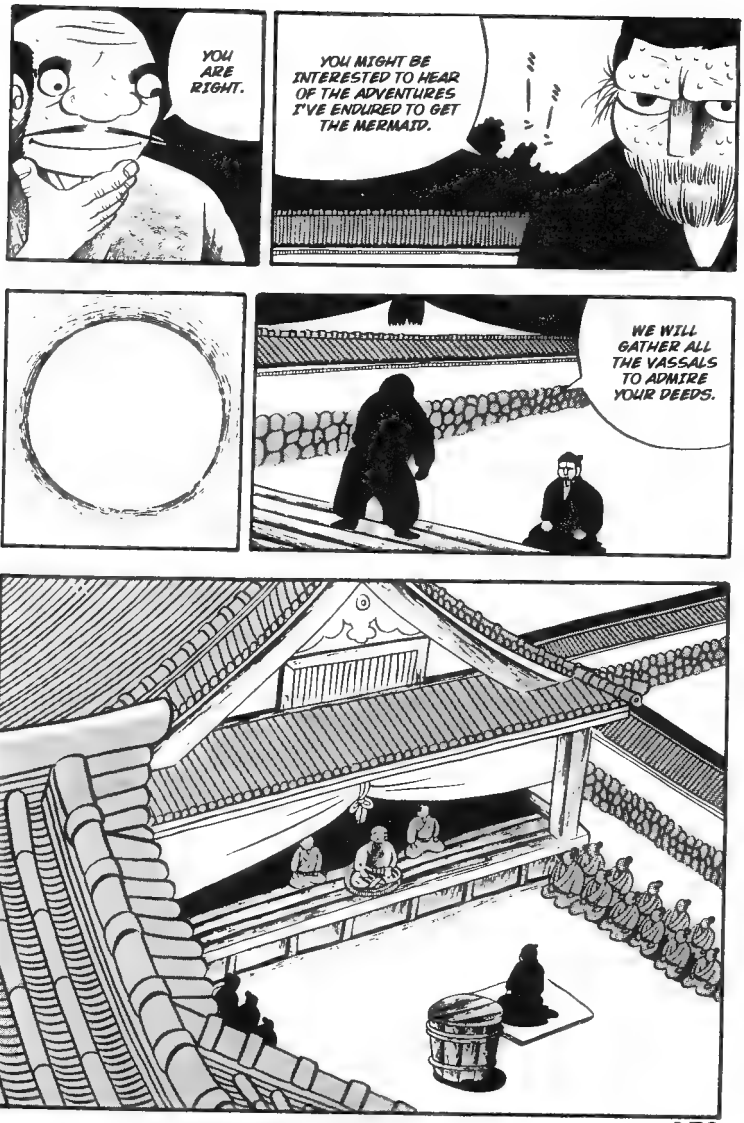
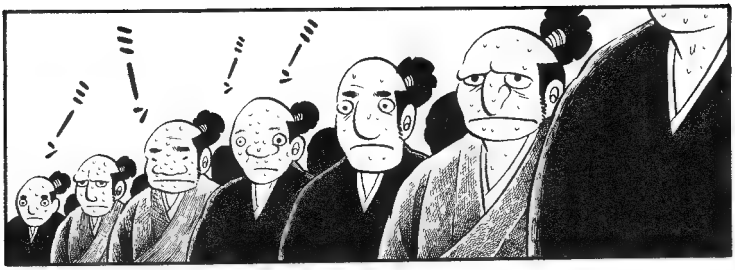
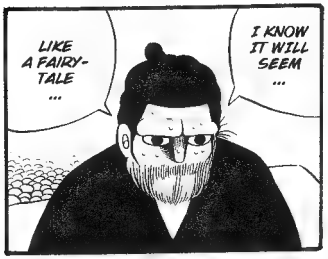
LET ME... LET ME SEE THE MER-MAID!
JINNAI, YOU'RE BACK!
LET ME GET EVERY-THING READY.
THAT'S RIGHT, MY LORD.

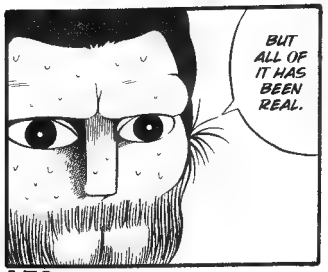

YOU ARE RIGHT.
YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO HEAR OF THE ADVENTURES I'VE ENDURED TO GET THE MERMAID.
WE WILL GATHER ALL THE VASSALS TO ADMIRE YOUR DEEDS.

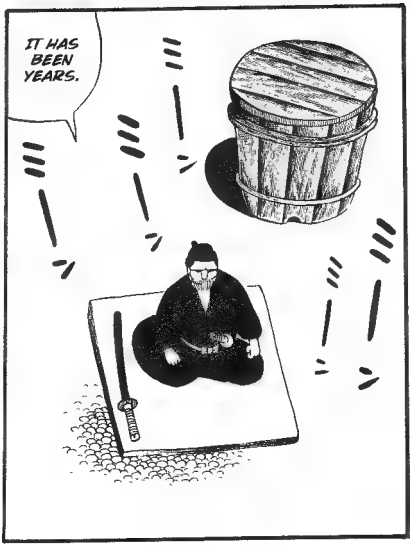


LISTEN, ALL OF YOU, TO HIS STORY.

THE IMMORTAL BEAUTY OF A MERMAID, BROUGHT HERE BY MY HUMBLE SERVANT.
YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED HERE SO YOU ALL CAN ADMIRE...


LIKE A FAIRY-TALE ...
I KNOW IT WILL SEEM ...


BUT ALL OF IT HAS BEEN REAL.


IT HAS BEEN YEARS.

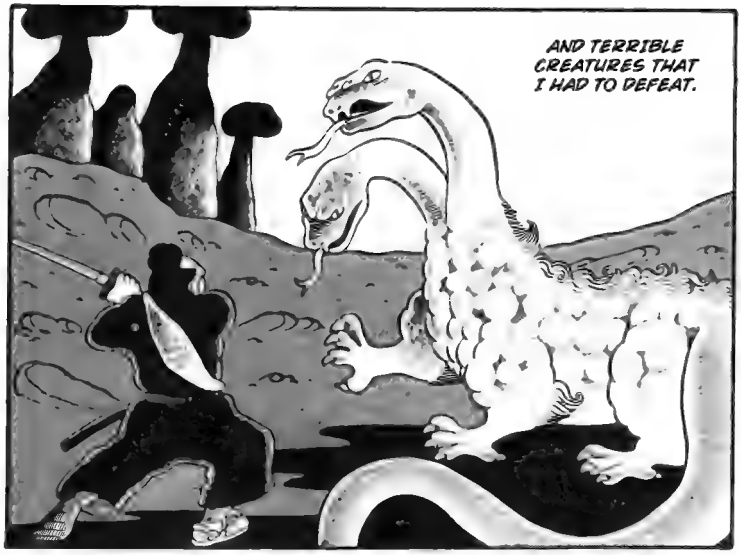
OH!
FOLLOWING MY LORD'S ORDERS, I WENT TO THE REMOTE PROVINCE OF ESOCHI, IN THE EXTREME NORTH...
HEY YOU, OGRE, LET ME PASS!
ZZZ ZZZ ...
WHAT ?!
YES, BUT I WON'T TELL YOU ANYTHING.
I'M LOOKING FOR A MERMAID, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
HOW DARE YOU?

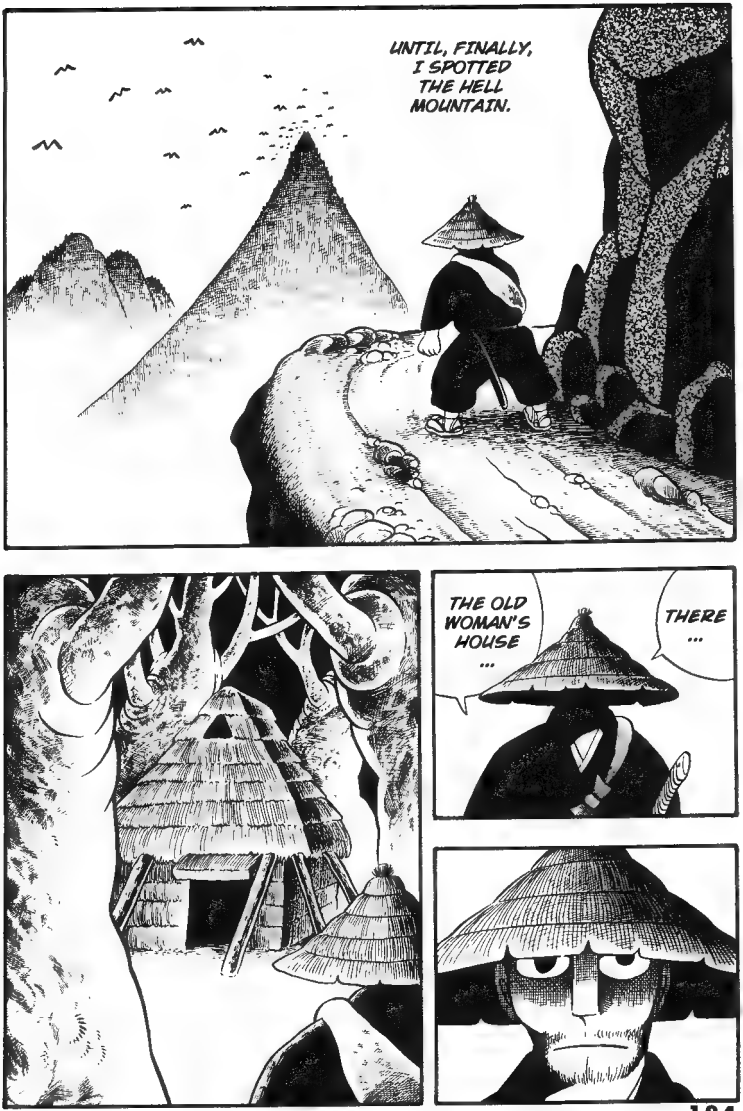
YOU'D LIKE THAT!
BUT IF YOU LOSE, YOU'LL BE MY FOOD.
IF YOU DEFEAT ME, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW.
むぎゅ
UAR-GH!
つおおお
YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK. HAHAHA!
BUT BE CAREFUL, YOU'LL ENCOUNTER MANY OBSTACLES ALONG THE WAY.
YOU WILL REACH THE HOUSE OF THE OLD WOMAN FROM HELL MOUNTAIN. SHE WILL TELL YOU WHERE THE MER-MAIDS ARE.
FOLLOW THIS PATH TO THE NORTH. NO DE-TOURS.

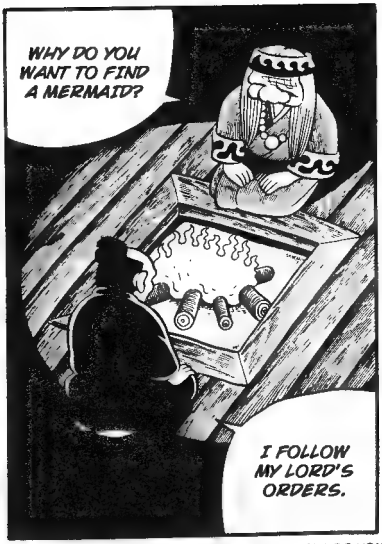
ON MY JOURNEY TO THE NORTH ...

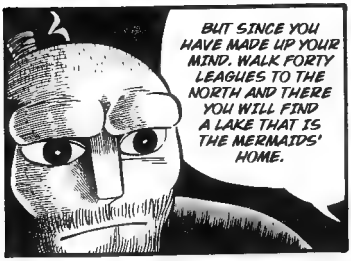
THE OGRE WASN'T KIDDING.

I ENCOUNTERED MONSTERS...

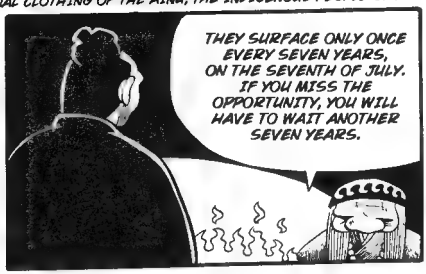

AND TERRIBLE CREATURES THAT I HAD TO DEFEAT.

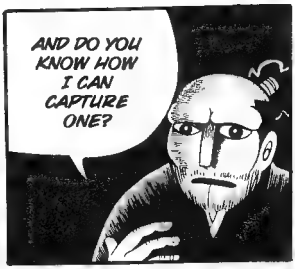

UNTIL, FINALLY, I SPOTTED THE HELL MOUNTAIN.
THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE ...
THERE ...

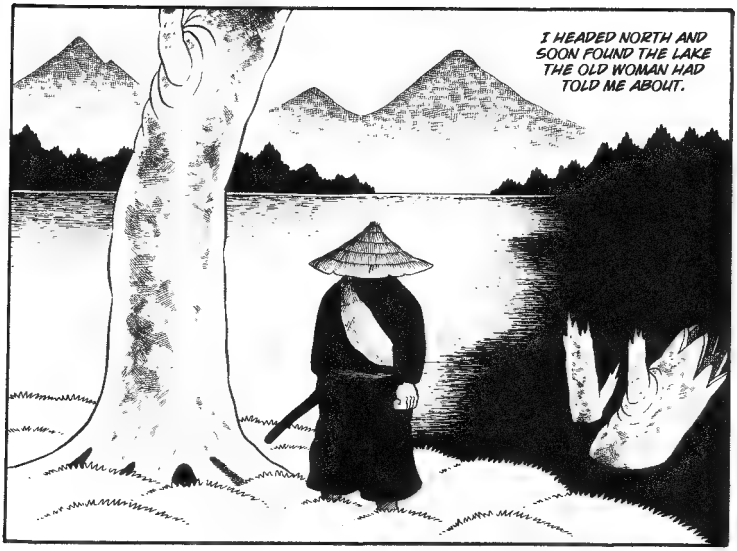


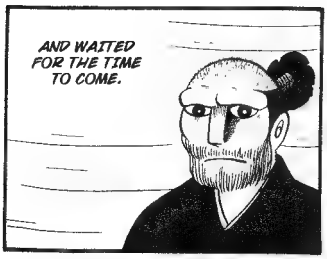

BUT SINCE YOU HAVE MADE UP YOUR MIND. WALK FORTY LEAGUES TO THE NORTH AND THERE YOU WILL FIND A LAKE THAT IS THE MERMAIDS' HOME.

THE OLD WOMAN IS DRESSED IN THE TRADITIONAL CLOTHING OF THE AINU, THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF HOKKAIDO.

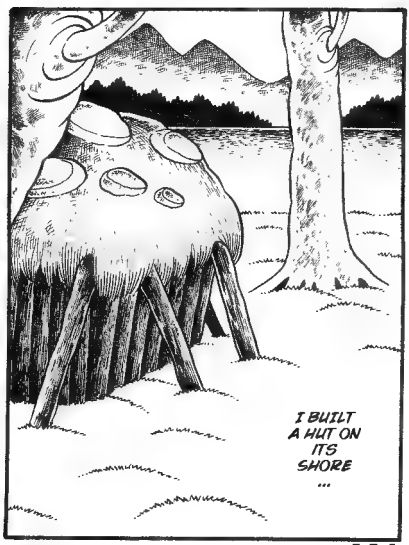

THEY SURFACE ONLY ONCE EVERY SEVEN YEARS, ON THE SEVENTH OF JULY. IF YOU MISS THE OPPORTUNITY, YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS.

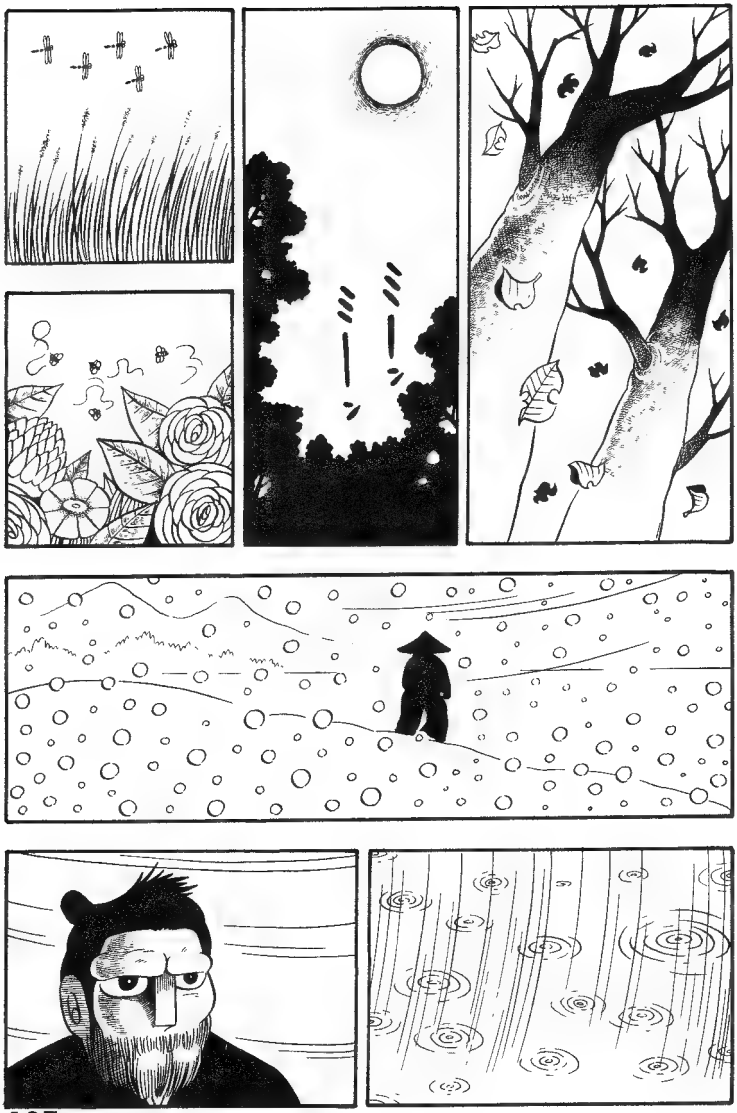



I HEADED NORTH AND SOON FOUND THE LAKE THE OLD WOMAN HAD TOLD ME ABOUT.


AND WAITED FOR THE TIME TO COME.

THREE YEARS AND THREE DAYS.


I BUILT A HUT ON ITS SHORE ...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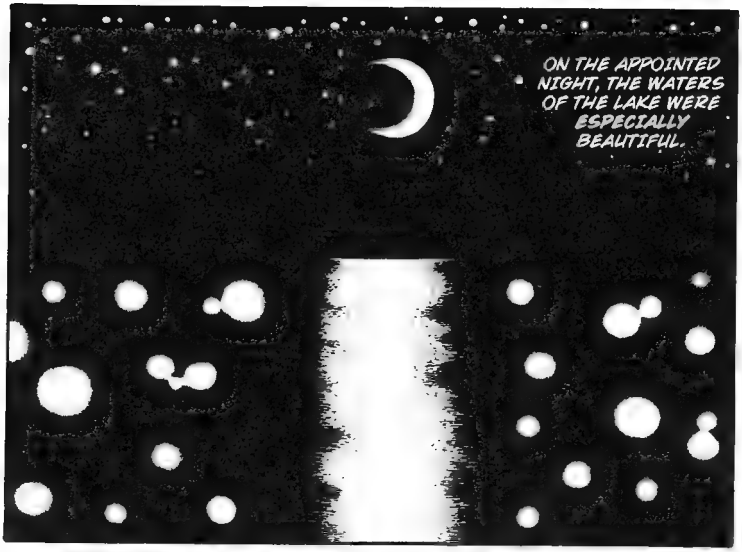
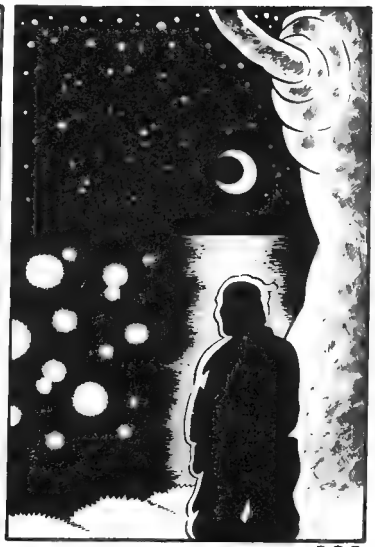
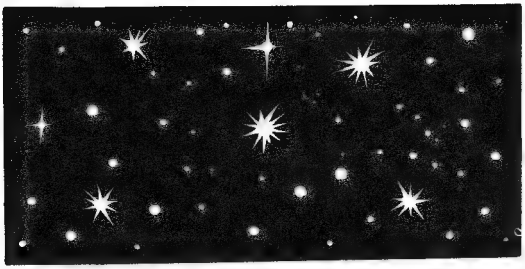

ON THE APPOINTED NIGHT, THE WATERS OF THE LAKE WERE ESPECIALLY BEAUTIFUL.

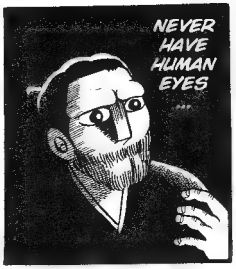
TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT.

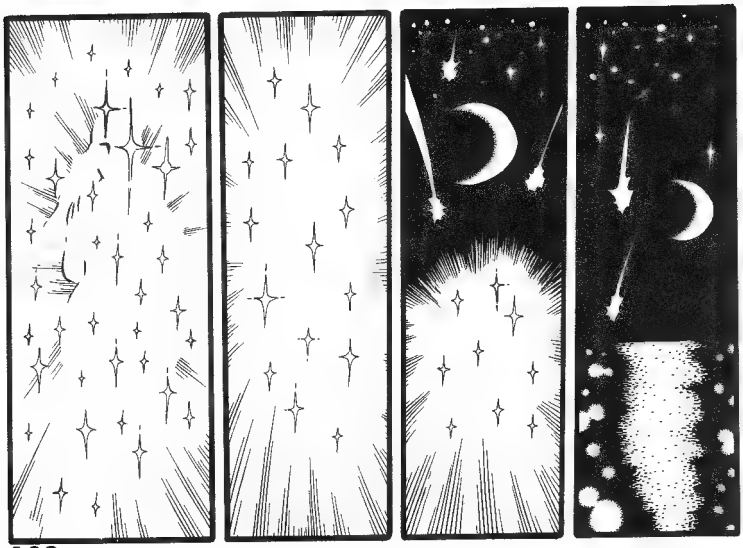
I HOPE TO SEE THE IMMORTAL BEAUTY OF THE MERMAIDS.

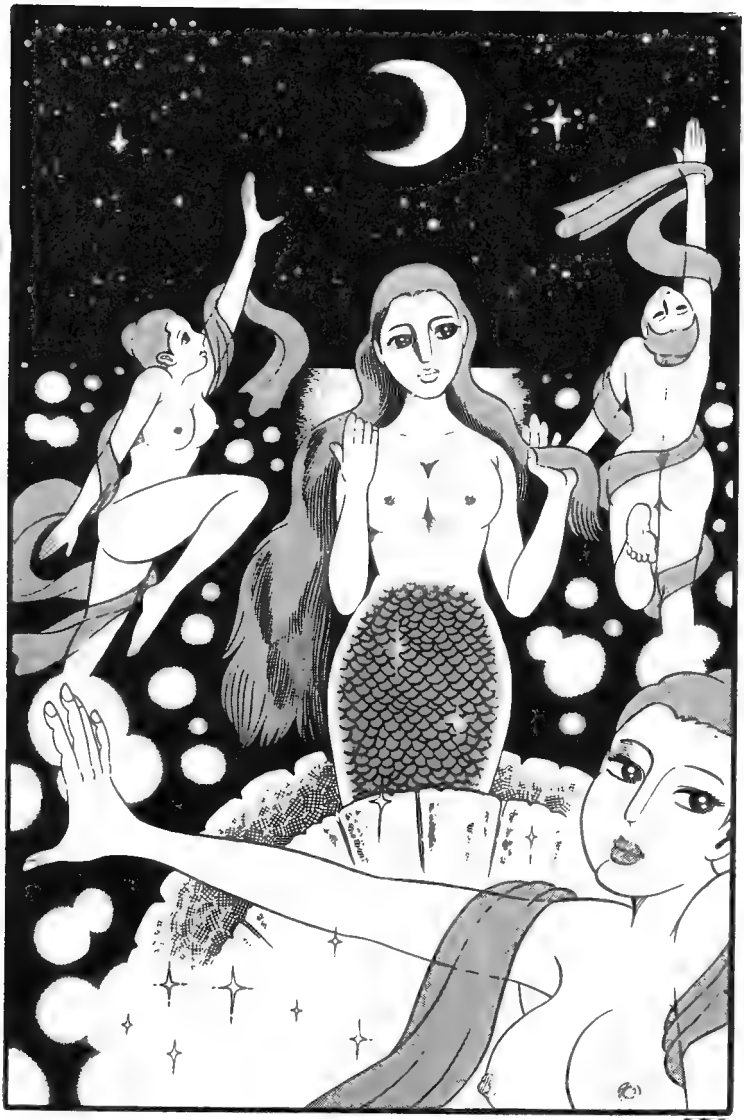


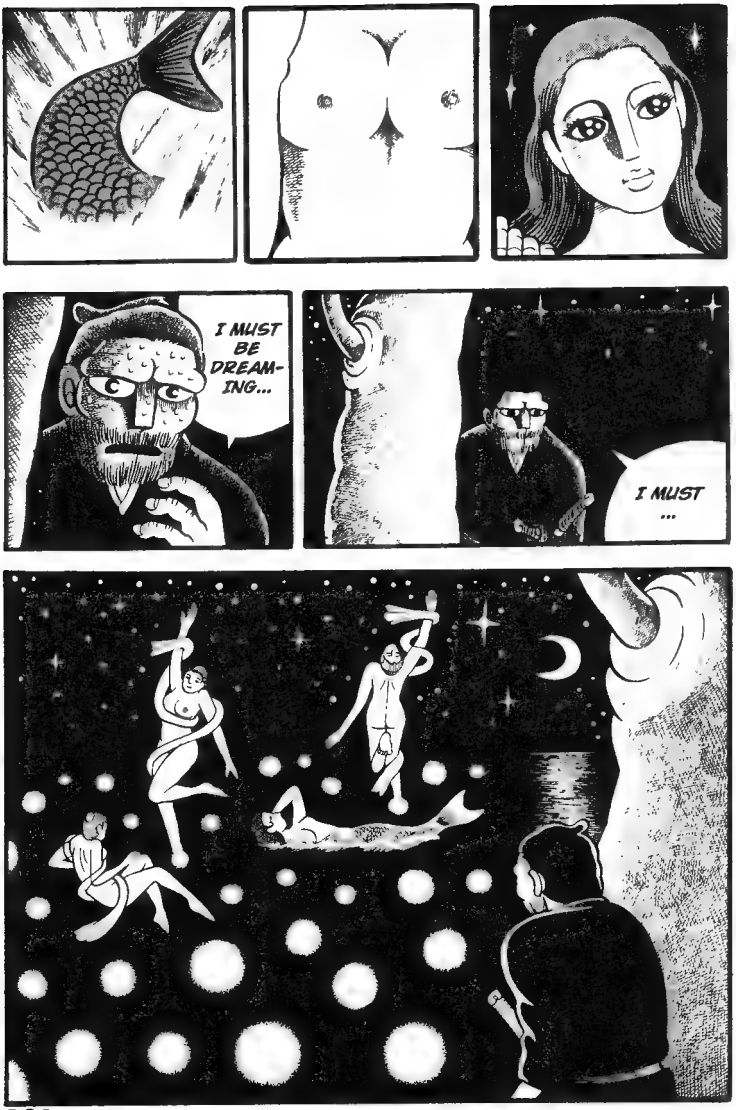


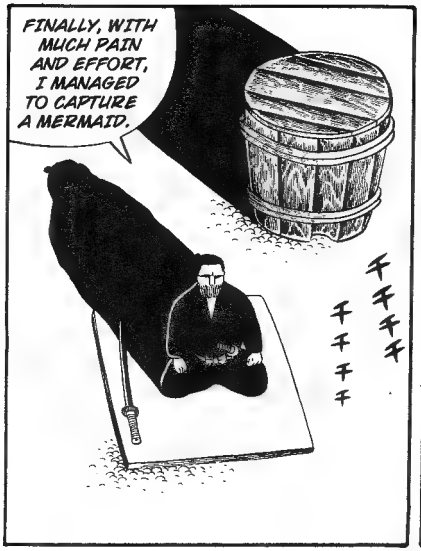
THE STARS IN THE SKY BEGAN TO TWINKLE AND SHOOTING STARS BEGAN TO FALL FROM THE SKY.








I MUST BE DREAM-ING...
I MUST ...


FINALLY, WITH MUCH PAIN AND EFFORT, I MANAGED TO CAPTURE A MERMAID.
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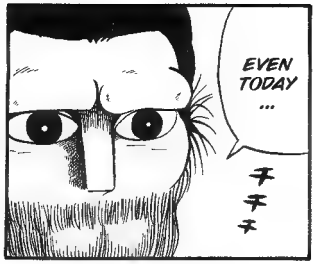
EVEN TODAY ...
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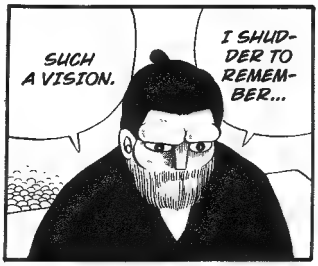
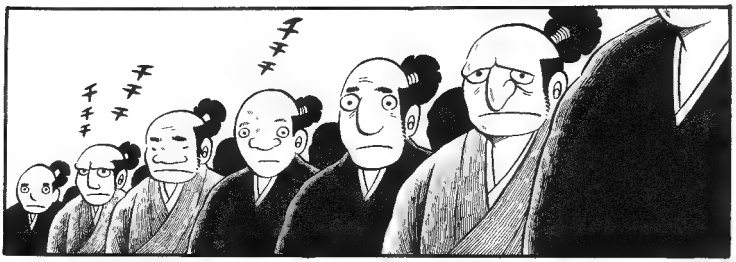

SUCH A VISION.
I SHUDDER TO REMEMBER...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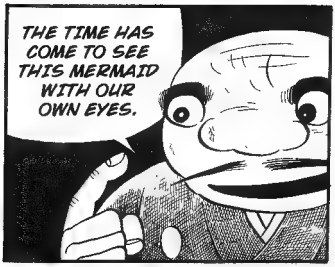
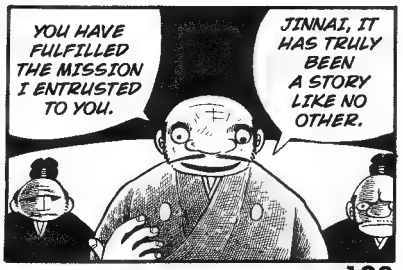
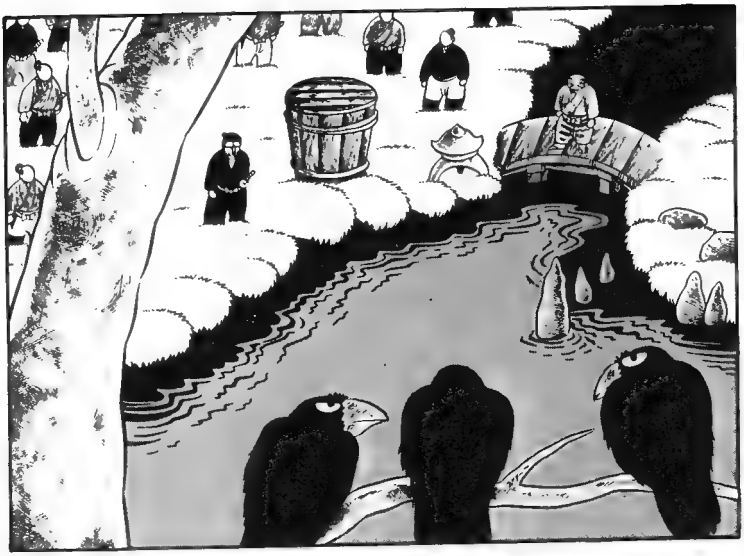
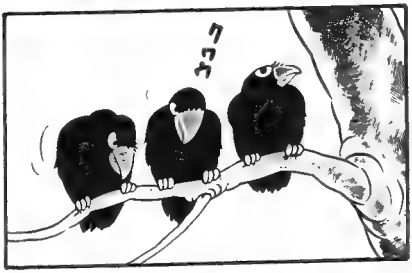

THE TIME HAS COME TO SEE THIS MERMAID WITH OUR OWN EYES.


YOU HAVE FULFILLED THE MISSION I ENTRUSTED TO YOU.
JINNAI, IT HAS TRULY BEEN A STORY LIKE NO OTHER.



OPEN YOUR EYES WIDE, FOR THERE IS NO OTHER BEAUTY LIKE THIS IN THE WORLD!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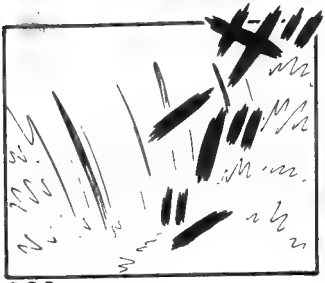

BUT ...
BUT THERE IS NOTHING... NOTHING AT ALL!
NO, NO, NO...
IT CAN'T BE...
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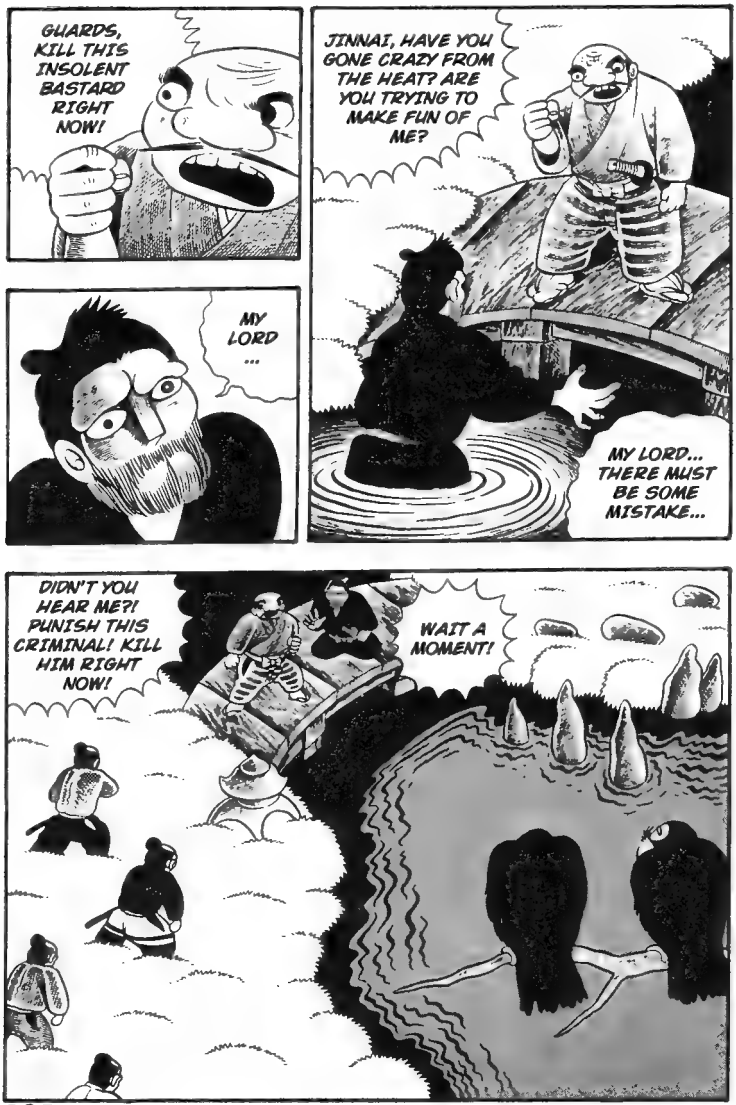
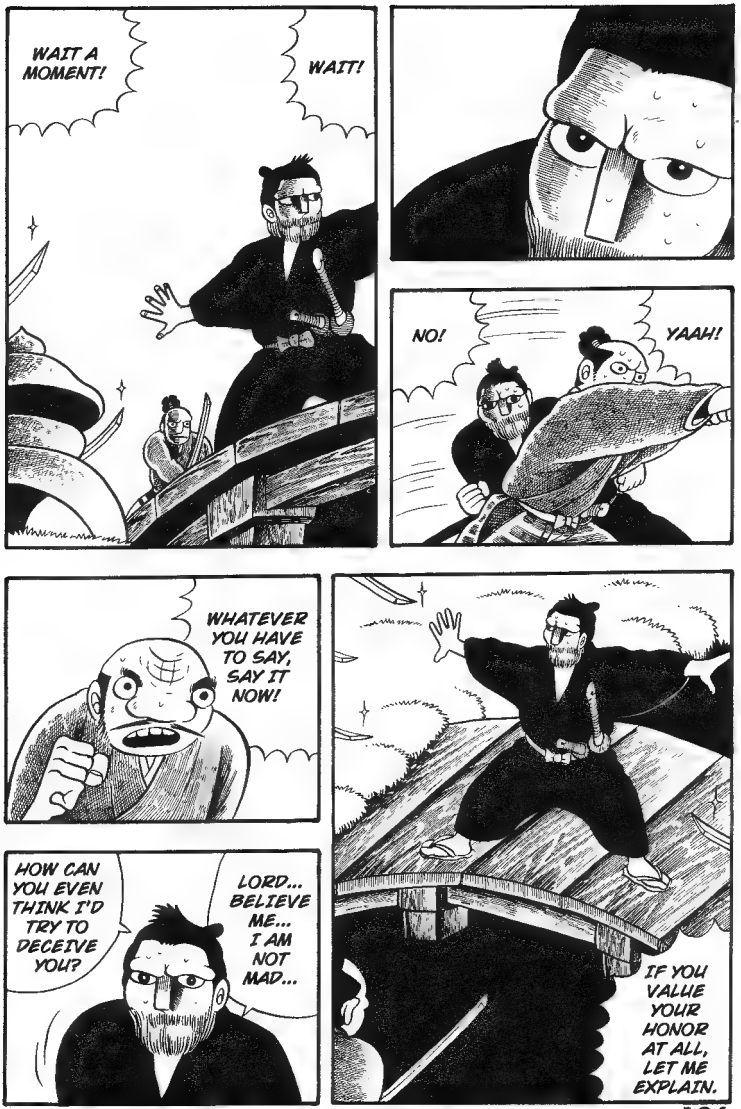

GUARDS, KILL THIS INSOLENT BASTARD RIGHT NOW!
JINNAI, HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY FROM THE HEAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME?
MY LORD ...
MY LORD... THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?! PUNISH THIS CRIMINAL! KILL HIM RIGHT NOW!
WAIT A MOMENT!


WAIT A MOMENT!
WAIT!
NO!
YAAH!
WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO SAY, SAY IT NOW!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR HONOR AT ALL, LET ME EXPLAIN.
HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK I'D TRY TO DECEIVE YOU?
LORD... BELIEVE ME... I AM NOT MAD...

AND WHERE DID IT GO, IF I MAY ASK?
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME...
I MYSELF, WITH THESE HANDS, WITH THESE ARMS, I CAPTURED A MERMAID ...
BUT I SWEAR ON MY HONOR THAT I MANAGED TO CAPTURE A MERMAID!
I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED...
YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME...
YOU HAVE ...
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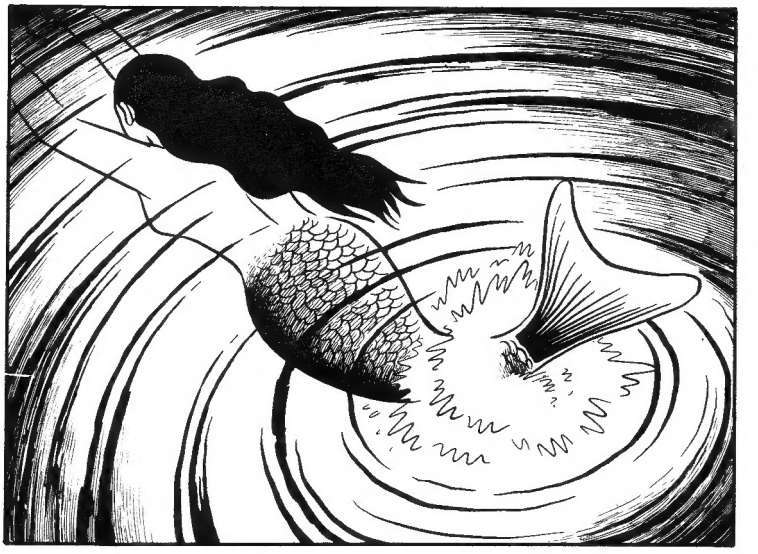
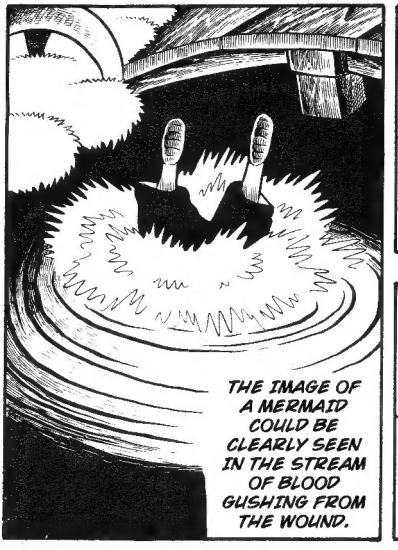
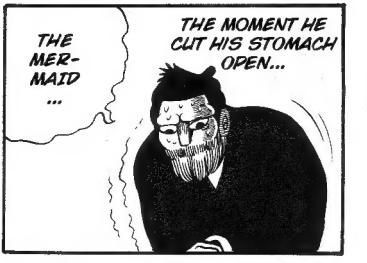



THE IMAGE OF A MERMAID COULD BE CLEARLY SEEN IN THE STREAM OF BLOOD GUSHING FROM THE WOUND.


THE MER-MAID ...
THE MOMENT HE CUT HIS STOMACH OPEN...

THE MER-MAID ...

BUT ONLY IN THE EYES OF POOR JINNAI ...
BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE ONLY SAW HIS BLOOD AND GUTS SPILLING FORTH.

THE END